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ss, books, TV, gigs, music, evel... (not to mention lunch and lust)

WEATHER: Bright at first, then rain

Plow Terror threat to election day

Home Office orders big security clampdown

Jason Bennetto, Fran Abrams and David McKittrick

Unprecedented security measures are to be taken on polling day to thwart any attempt by the IRA to disrupt the general election.

Polling stations are to be searched for explosive devices, extra police officers posted, some voters may be searched and returning officers been given Home Office advice about terrorist threats for the first time.

The plans emerged on the day two IRA bombs exploded under a electricity pylon close to a motorway and a housing estate north of Birmingham, as part of the wave of mass disruption

to Britain's transport systems.
Police believe the IRA was attempting to send a 132,000-volt electricity pylon crashing down on the M6. However, no one was hurt when the devices exploded in the morning rush hour. The police later said the IRA gave inaccurate coded warnings, further endangering life. The explosions were the third time in eight days the IRA has tried to disrupt the election campaign by creating chaos via a se-ries of coded bomb threats.

The authorities intend to impose the tightest security measures seen this by the Home Office to send all 659 acting returning officers a circular telling

them how to respond to an attack. It says: "Provided that an adequate security plan, based on police. advice, has been put in place, it should be possible to avoid major disruption, such as evacuation of premises, in almost all circumstances.

Should a bomb threat be received, the police will assess its credibility and consider, in the light of the security measures in place, what level of re-

sponse is appropriate.
"Their aim will be to enable the electoral process to continue uninterrupted unless that would pose a clear risk to public safety."

It adds that if voting did have to be abandoned the process could be completed the following day.
Officials said that in the event of any

coded threats being received, the presiding officers should arrange for the polling station to be searched

Home Office sources maintained that they had no intelligence about a specific IRA threat to polling day and serious disruption was considered unlikely. But they also acknowledged that recent IRA activity had empha-sised that the general threat was high.

6 We've a large number of security measures – this is

an enormous operation but we are sure that it will do the job 9

poling stations and 65% counts. Both the visible and more covert measures are expected to turn polling day into one of the biggest police security op-

erations ever.
David Veness, the Metropolitan Pohoe's assistant commissioner, revealed earlier in the week that police had been planning how to combat any IRA threat on 1 May for a some time.

A police source from a metropolitan force said yesterday: "Polling day is a prime target for the IRA. We have a large number of security measures - some covert - ready to be brought into play. This is an enormous operation, but we're sure it will do the job. There will be more police officers than

usual and if anyone is acting suspi-ciously they may be searched."

Tickets to some counts have already been restricted and attendants on voting night can expect tight security.
In Northern Ireland itself there has been no recent history of serious dis-

ruption on polling days.
Since the early 1980s, when Sinn Fein has contested every election, polling has normally taken place in a trouble-free atmosphere.

One of the principal reasons for this pattern has been the fact that Sinn Fein activists have been auxious to secure as big a turnout as possible of their own

supporters.

However, in at least one election in the early 1970s, a wave of IRA bomb attacks took place across Belfast while on the evening of another polling day, a number of Loyalist bombs went off.

Meanwhile, the emergency services were yesterday having to cope with yet another series of coded bomb threats that crippled the motorway sys-tem in the Midlands, and closed Birmingham's main train station and Luton airport. Sections of the M1 and M18 in Leicestershire, Notting-hamshire and South Yorkshire were also closed for a time.

Commenting on the bombs which were desonated under the electricity century surrounding a general election Chief constables of Britain's police were detonated under the electricity on 1 May to avoid further disruption. forces will decided the level of secu-pylon, at Bloawich, west Midlands, be-Among the president of the decision will necessary at Each of the 45,000, tween functions 10 and 10A of the M6. Chief Inspector Steve Dogmore of West Midlands police said: "It's absolutely despicable ... It could have resulted in total devastation. If the pylon had fallen in one direction, ital: would have fallen on to the M6; where drivers at rush bour were go-

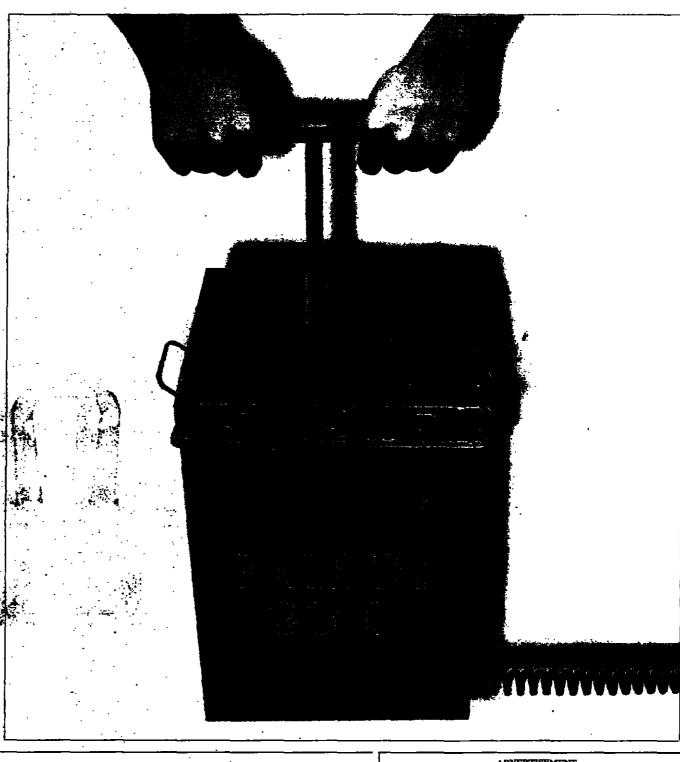
ing to work.

If it had fallen the other way, it could have failen on to flats and res-

idents' property."

The pylon, which was slightly damaged, only supplies a small area with electricity. All the disrupted routes were re-opened by the afternoon with the exception of a section of the M6, near the explosions.

Travel chaos, page 5



Blair wins backing on pensions

Anthony Bevins and Diane Coyle

with a tit-for-tat charge that it link between pensions and was planning a £20-cut in the bapprices, rather than earnings, sic pension – after John Major will devalue the pension over sic pension - after John Major condemned Tony Blair for drag-ging politics into the gutter, and staked his political career on guaranteeing the state pension.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies, a respected think tank, says in an analysis for The Independent that the Conservatives' proposal for a basic pension plus" does, as Mr Blair claims, amount to the replacement of the guaranteed basic state pension by private provision.
"It is effectively a privatisation

of the state pension." according

QUICKLY Co-op net widens

The scandal surrounding Andrew Regan's failed £1.2bn break-up bid for the Co-op widened yesterday to include 17 leading City financial institutions and thue-chip companies. They were supplied with confidential information stolen from the Copp after what a High Court ge described as "iniquitous duct" on the part of Mr Regan and his advisers. Page 22

Channel 4 race-off The contest to succeed Michael de as chief executive of Channel 4 appears to have ide down to a two-horse between the BBC's library Jackson, and C4's diof programmes. John | migly dry, it now looks as if the

to Paul Johnson, deputy director of the IFS.

The IFS also pointed out The Tories yesterday bit Labour that Labour's retention of the time. "We are effectively seeing general agreement that the ba-sic pension will be gradually phased out," Mr Johnson said. Both parties downplayed the

fact that anybody who is under 20 now can not count on receiving a state pension that provides enough to live on, no matter who wins the election. INSIDE

Leading article, page 19 pages 9-13

the parties overshadowed all

The pattern of pension provision is almost certain to involve two tiers, a basic state sum and

Y THE INDEPENDENT election'97 Election countdown

whether under a Labour or But the political row between

While Mr Major and Mr a top-up private pension. The Blair battled over the future of amount provided by the state, the state pension, Peter Lilley, could guarantee the state pen-

Security, alleged that Labour's plans for a flexible age of refirement "would cut the basic pension by £20 a week".

Harriet Harman, the Labour spokeswoman, said: "The basic state pension will be paid in full to all who retire at 65." The Labour leader said he was angered by Tory plans to split the country into a "two-tier" society. "Look at all their proposals," he said at Labour's press conference, "whether it's health, edu-Conservative government, will cation, pensions; it's all dividing

people up."
But Mr Blair was not as angry as Mr Major appeared at his press conference. Challenged by The Independent to say how he

Secretary of State for Social sion with men like Michael Portillo or John Redwood about, he said: "If anybody in my Cabinet actually prevailed in an argu-ment like that, I would not only leave Downing Street, I would leave politics, and I would call

a general election. This is just the politics of crude fantasy, scurrilous, unscrupulous campaigning in order to win the votes of people who they wish to frighten ... it realby does bring politics down into the gutter when people utter charges like this, that they know in their hearts to be false."

Mr Major said: "This wasn't casual, tossed-off remark by Mr Brown or Mr Blair. This was a carefully calculated, carefully prepared campaign against the

pensioners into believing that their security and the state retirement pension was at risk." Certainly, the Labour attack

was calculated. The Independent was told last night that Mr Blair had made his own assessment of Conservative pension plans when they were first announced in Downing Street in March - but held back his attack for delivery at the height of the election campaign.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, last night wrote to Mr Major asking him to confirm that the state pension was to be replaced by "privately pur-chased provision" and that the scheme might eventually be ex-

Strange wet stuff falls from the sky

Nicholas Schoon

"Rain stopped play." Sweet words of summer, which we thought we might never hear again. But yesterday eight cricket matches were halted as real water fell from the sky.
The Meteorological Office is

confidently forecasting a genuinely wet weekend. And, peering courageously into the future, it predicts unsettled weather in the first half of May, with still more precipitation. Instead of April turning out to be a freakishly, record-set-Page 3 | month might merely have far

and Wales this April had only averaged 9.mm - compared with the long-term average for the entire month of 60mm.

Even less rain had fallen in

the nation's most parched regions of East Anglia, the Thames Valley and the South But now at last there has been widespread, steady drizzle, which had damped more than 3mm on London by yesterday afternoon. It was capital's first

below average rainfall. Until er Centre. "We could well go to yesterday, rainfall in England over 4mm." and Wales this April had only So unusual was all this damp-

ness that the Associated Press, the leading US news agency, told the world's media. "Itrained in London, Friday. News? You bet," its report

England and Wales have had their driest 24 successive months since reliable records began just over 200 years ago. There was well above average rainfall in February, but preproper, prolonged rain since 23 March. "Our sensors show it's cipitation in January and March was exceptionally low for the still raining," said a spokesman indoors at the London Weathtime of year. Much more is required to

sprinkler bans across large parts of southern and eastern England. From now until the autumn, the ground is too dry and evaporation too swift for surface and underground water resources to be replenished by rain. But any

from gardeners and farmers, helping to eke out supplies.
"This week's rainfall is unlikely to have any real effect on

supplies; what we really need is a great deal of consistent rainfall," said Jane Parncombe of Southern Water, which still has a long-running hosepipe ban in

rain that falls cuts the demand

avert the threat of hosepipe and have already experienced one surge of demand in April due to the warm weather."

Flows in every one of the Environment Agency's 35 indicator rivers are well below average for the time of year. In most, the is normal for late April.

If Labour wins the general promised to crack down on the water companies, demanding that they speed up their programmes to reduce mains leakage and repair customer's leaking pipes and taps free of charge.

Weather, Long Weekend, page 31

TV & Radio31,32

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Gazette18 LONG WEEKEND

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Europe stifles hope for trade in British BSE-free cattle

Hopes that British farmers with healthy, BSE-free, herds could be exempted from the European Union's beef ban were dashed vesterday after Brussels challenged the basis of proposals framed

by Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister.

Mr Hogg submitted a blueprint to Brussels last month detailing how Britain would meet EU conditions for the removal of the ban on exports of beef from BSE-free herds. But, in a letter to Mr Hogg.
Franz Fischler and Emma Bonino, EU commissioners for agriculture and food safety, query the ability of the British authorities to guarantee that certified BSE-free herds can be properly traced. Exports from Northern Ireland could be envisaged, the

commissioners suggest, since Ulster already has a well-established computerised cattle-movement database. A commission spokesman stressed yesterday that a formal decision on the certified herds scheme would be taken only at the end of May.

Missing child turns up in Holland

A two-year-old girl snatched yesterday morning from outside her nursery school has been found, later the same day, in Holland, Marwa Darwich and her Lebanese natural father, Ahmed, were traced to Schiphol Airport near Amsterdam by Dutch authorities, Scotland Yard said. The child was abducted when her foster father was hit over the head from behind and pushed to the ground outside the Portman Family Centre in Marylebone, central London.

Youths jailed for victimising elderly

Two teenage boys who burgled the elderly and disabled were jailed for three and five years vesterday after a crime wave which saw them arrested 115 times in 30 months.

Daniel Storey, (left) aged 14, and Daniel Marsh, (right) aged 17, chose "soft" targets, including a 72-year-old man whom they





robbed of his Christmas presents, to feed their drug addiction. Judge David Selwood, at Portsmouth Crown Court, lifted their right to anonymity on the grounds the public had a right to know who had committed the "catalogue of offences".

Three years for fallen SAS hero

A former SAS hero, trapped by an undercover police officer into illegally supplying a machine-gun and highly destructive dum-dum bullets, was yesterday jailed for three years.

Robert Scott, 49, who distinguished himself in battle zones around the world, hoped the deal would result in £100,000 of legitimate business. But Judge Derek Imman at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court told the twice-married father, who was arrested shortly after last year's Dunblane tragedy, that he must have been aware of the danger in which he was putting society. A second defendant, David Spencer, 38, also a former soldier, who supplied the Vectra M4 submachine pistol, received an 18-month sentence. A third man, ex-M16 officer Christopher Hale, 57, provided a 32 calibre Astra revolver and 18 bullets at Scott's request, and will be sentenced next week.

E.coli screening in Highlands

Health officials in Scotland are screening the family and friends of a six-year-old girl who has contracted the E. coli 0157 bacterium. The four teachers and 92 pupils of Hill of Fearn Primary School in Easter Ross, where the girl is a pupil, have also been given advice on hygiene. A spokesman for Highland Council said: "We have been advised there is no public health issue involved." The girl is being looked after at her home and is not ill, he added.



Fay Weldon turns from feminism to boy power

Weldon, 65, was speaking following the announcement of a new TV drama Big Women to be shown on Channel 4. The series tells the story of a feminist publishing house over 25 years from the 1970s to the 1990s, it shows heady idealism giv-ing way to disillusion particularly among men.

According to Weldon, "The serial is going to be very sexy but not in a salaclous way. Lots of naked women running around in the woods communing

with the Mother Goddess."
Weldon writer of *The Lives And Loves Of A She-Devil*, said no one can accuse her of going back on her feminist principles.
"I will get stick from all sides! But I can't have deserted because I was never there. There is no

headquarters, you know

"Our duty now is to become masculinist. It is time we looked after the self esteem of the little boys," "Ferninism was a revolution that happened. It was

Top scientist

targeted in

animal protest

A leading neuroscientist

has been targeted by anti-

who are planning a demon-

vivisection campaigners

stration outside his house

The home of professor

Colin Blakemore, presi-

British Association for the

Advancement of Science. is being used as a meeting

point for animal rights pro-

testors who will then go on

an "Animai Freedom Tour". Professor Blakemore,

who is out of the country. is

concerned for the safety of

his wife and family. He said

last night: "I'm afraid they'll

burn my house down. I re-

ally live in fear of my home

being destroyed." He said there has been a resur-rgence of attacks on him,

with the latest being fo-

The group behind the

protest, Animaliberation, have said in their flyers ad-

vertising the event that

they are planning to visit

several "animal abuse es-

Oxford*. A similar protest

tablishments in and around

cused on his home.

dent-in-waiting of the

The novelist Fay Weldon has called on feminists an amazing movement that worked. Everything is to become masculinist and promote the self escompletely different to what it was 25 years ago.

But what happens with all revenitions is they be come the Establishment.

come the Establishment.

Women's problem has become how to find a man when do you get the opportunity and have do you find the time? Because nobody now is good enough for them.

A Channel 4 spokesmen confirmed yesterday that the Big Women series would be based on the Management of the Management of

It will be a satirical look at feminism over the last quarter of a century," he said. The producer will be Tariq All and shooting will start in July. The cast has

yet to be confirmed:

Channel 4's drama plans, also include an adaptation of Anthony Powell's A Dance To The Missic Of Time and an adaptation of Francis Durbridge a classic sidies thriller Melissa, updated by Alan. Bleasdale. Jennifer Enle, who played Elizabeth in Price And Prejudice, will play Melissa. Julie Walters and Bill Paterson will also star.

David Lister

Smoking

rebel vows

to defy ban

Sixty-a-day smoker Peter

that he would rather go to

injunction banning him

from lighting up on the London to Brighton train.

Connex South Central,

whose BR predecessors prosecuted him in the

criminal courts, succeeded

in a civil action aimed at

ending the commuter's

habit of smoking in the buffet car of their trains

The injunction was

Boddington's challenge to

his £10 fine for smoking is

either heard or rejected by the House of Lords. Mr

Boddington, the owner of Tooting Market in south

London, is now standing

parliamentary candidate in

vote for him will "help stop

people being sent to prison

by the French for smoking

Tooting, and says in his

election literature that a

as an independent

on British trains"

where there is now a

complete ban.

imposed until Mr

iail than obey a High Court

His rebellion came after

Contraceptive pill safe for most women

Contraceptive pills do not increase the risk of heart attack in healthy women, according to a World Health Organisation study.

A team of researchers led by Professor Neil Poulter, of
University College London, said heart attacks were "extremely

rare" in women under 35 who did not smoke and used oral contraceptives. They added in a paper published in the Lancet:
"The risk is likely to be even lower if blood pressure is screened before, and presumably during, oral contraceptive use.

However, the team found that use of the pill did slightly increase the risk of heart attack among women with known risk factors, like smoking and being overweight. It also caused a small increase in risk among those who had not been effectively screened before the

pills were prescribed, particularly for blood pressure.

The study collected information on 368 women aged 20 to 44 who had heart attacks from 21 research centres in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

MOTORING.

Road rage 'worst on Fridays'

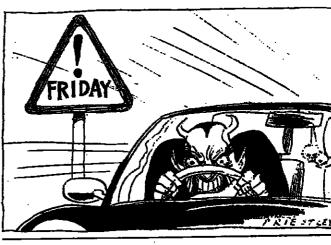
Road rage is at its worst on Fridays because motorists gradually build up their aggression and stress levels during the week, it was claimed yesterday.

AXA insurance said almost one in five of the 30,000 insurance

claims for vehicle damage and accidents last year involved incidents on Fridays. The company also found that 40 per cent of the 520 drivers it quizzed admitted behaving aggressively on the

road when feeling stressed or tired.

The company said its research earlier this month suggested that The company said its research earlier this month suggested that drivers get increasingly aggressive and careless as the week goes by, "culminating in Friday maybem". Andy Tait, head of the firm's motor division, said: "Our 24-bour claims helpline becomes inundated with calls on Fridays. This is more than twice the amount which we receive for Sundays. "We worry that UK drivers might start to follow the trend set by French and Italian drivers, the weekend." who go mad leaving Paris and Rome for the weekend."



EMPLOYMENT

Courts service accused of sex bias

Women and ethnic minorities are being denied top jobs in the magistrates court service, according to a survey which revealed that

93 per cent of senior positions are held by men.
Only seven per cent of the top grades of Justices' Chief
Executives and Justices' Clerks - 16 out of 214 - are women, and

Rosie Eagleson, general secretary of the magistrates' union, the Association of Magisterial Officers, said: "It is pretty astonishing that this is happening in 1997. We are extremely disappointed and increasingly angry with the response of the Lord Chancellor's Department in the face of these latest, and apparently damning, equality of opportunity for all those working in the magistrates' courts service. This is an issue which cannot be swept under the

carpet as it undermines the credibility of the local justice system." The results were part of an ethnic and gender monitoring survey for 1996, carried out by the magistrates' courts group of the Lord Chancellor's Department. It showed that while 68 per cent of all staff employed in the service were female, 68 per cent of these were employed in low-paid, clerical and administrative jobs.

ASTRONOMY

New planet found in star's orbit

American scientists have boosted the notion that many more stars in the galaxy may have Earth-sized planets orbiting them, after finding evidence for a planet the size of Jupiter around a star just

50 light years away.

Though it is almost certainly too hot to sustain life, and is not the closest to Earth of the extrasolar planets to be found, it does offer fresh evidence for how such star and planet systems form.

The planet was found by detecting tiny variations in the motion of the star, Rho Coronae Borealis in the Northern Crown constellation, from an observatory at Mt Hopkins in Arizona.

Last year other astronomers reckoned they had found two extrasolar planets around a star just eight light years away from Earth. Both of those were also reckoned to be the size of Jupiter. This discovery helps show that giant planets like Jupiter may be reasonably common around ordinary stars," said Robert Noves,

one of the team. "It is exciting to think that there may be many smaller planets much more like the Earth in orbit around these stars, as in our own solar system."

Charles Arthur, Science Editor

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BACK ISSUES
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Internet boy whose game was for real

Colin Blackstock

last Saturday in Hereford-

tween protesters and

shire ended in clashes be-

Professor Blakemore

(pictured), of Oxford Uni-

rights campaigners. Two

years ago, at Christmas,

package, sent to his home by protesters, which later

turned out to be a bomb.

to death threats, warned

would be kidnapped, and

several thousand pounds

had his car doused with

paint strippers, causing

worth of damage.

that his three children

He has been subjected

his children handled a

versity, has been a fre-

quent target for animal

A 12-year-old Texas boy is being hailed as an internet hero for summoning help for a woman seriously ill in

At first, Sean Redden said, he could not tell whether the "sob" and "pain" messages flashing across his screen were real or part of an internet game he had logged on to. In the end he took them

seriously and his actions, with help from his mother, sheriff's dispatchers, international operators and Finnish paramedics, may have saved the life of Tarja Laitinen, 20. a business student in Kerava, Finland.

Sean was playing a character in a chat-room, a confirmed that Ms Laitinen cyber fantasy world where visitors play make-believe. A new character entered,

saying she was an asthmatic who had stayed late in the computer lab, got locked in and was having trouble breathing. She gave her name and address. Sean's mother, called rescue personnel. and an ambulance was dispatched. Interpol later

AP - Denton, Texas

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world's

BBC's brightest set to head C4

Rob Brown Media Editor

The contest to succeed Michael Grade as chief executive of Channel 4, an appointment expected to be made at a board meeting on Monday, appears to have boiled down to a two-horse race between one of the BBC's top television executives. Michael Jackson, and Channel 1's director of programmes,
John Willis.

If the youthful Mr Jackson gets the job, it will be hard for Mr Willis to stick around at the station he has been with since day one. Colleagues expect him to quit if he is passed over for the post. He may even cross over to the BBC.

themselves for that eventuality. He has described the Channel 4 chief executive post as the best job in British broadcasting.

Rumours have been sweep-

ing through the corridors at Television Centre since last Tuesday, when the director of television and controller of BBC1 suddenly cancelled a walkabout in the entertainment department for a serious discussion at Broadcasting House

with director-general John Birt. Mr Birt has dismissed suggestions that he is about to lose one of the brightest minds in the corporation, and a possible future DG. He told one reporter that for Mr Jackson to move from his current job at the BBC (Director of Television and

4 would be "like you going off to edit the New Statesman

It could be that Mr Birt has held onto the wunderkind of White City by offering him an irresistible package of promises. But Mr Jackson has just embarked on a plum job, so it is doubtful he can be offered much more at this stage.

Speculation that he is set to defect to the commercial sector has risen since it emerged last out of the running. Although he has no real experience in the commercial world, the way for the appointment of a creative leader was paved by the recent decision to promote David Scott from finance director to

Channel 4's managing director: But it will be a major blow for

the station's programming supremo, John Willis, who has been described by Channel 5's chief executive David Elstein as the "unsung hero" of Channel 4. Mr Willis would hate to lose out to a younger man he once branded a "copycat criminal".

That was when Mr Jackson was controller of BBC2 and, allegedly, stealing ideas from Channel 4. Mr Jackson hit back week that BBC's director of at that time, describing Chan-programmes, Alan Yentob, was nel 4 as a "lager channel" and at that time, describing Chanarguing that a "sapping of orig-inality" had resulted from a "pursuit of demographics - in particular, young, lager-drinking, upwardly-mobile men". Mr Jackson pointed to The Girlie Show as an example of "putting

packaging before programming, treating the audience simply as categories of consumers'

In contrast, BBC2, he suggested challenged its audience reflecting the more fluid social realities of the Nineties - the awareness that Essex Man may be curious about Cezanne, that Sussex Woman may have hankerings after Oasis."

Mr Jackson made life difficult for Channel 4 schedulers during his time in charge of BBC2. He broadened its appeal, par-ticularly in peak time, with everything from fantasy Football to Our Friends in the North. He axed the Late Show and gave the network its first continuous drama series, This Life, about a group of sex-obsessed young lawyers sharing a London flat.

performed virtually the same role that Mr Jackson performs at the Beeb, before he took over at Channel 4 in 1987. Because of his populist and flamboyant image, Mr Grade's appointment unnerved many at Channel 4. Yet he quickly established himself as the Face of Four and many Channel 4 staffers were devastated when he announced

quit in July. The horror which greeted Michael Grade's move to Channel 4 would repeat itself if the board opted this time for his old LWT chum Greg Dyke, who is believed to covet the post. Mr Jackson has more arty-cred, and no one will be outraged if he is named as Channel 4's new boss.



on 27 January that he would

...but backlash against the box starts here

Nicole Veash

The backlash against television started in the Wilson household when they banished the square box to a corner of the attic. where it sat gathering dust for more than a decade.

A few years ago, they decided to be rid of it permanently, mainly because it was never used and was taking up too much space.
The family, who live in East

Grinstead, Sussex, have now given their support to Turn Off TV Week, a campaign launched by anti-television campaigners, White Dot. Sarah Wilson, 44, a music

teacher and mother to three teenage children, said when they chose to turn off their television they were rewarded with an enriched family life.

When the children were quite small my husband and I decided we didn't want them watching television because it is habit-forming and they would

ed part of family life," she said. "I don't think we have replaced the television, we are not rushing around all the time trying to fill the gaps in our life. It is just that we live by a differ-

ent, more moderate tempo."

The Wilsons are used to people thinking that life without television is somewhat odd. But they dismiss suggestions that their children are bored or in some way deprived. "Each of the children has had the time to develop a musical talent and I'm not quite sure how we would fit TV into our life now," says Mrs

a · business . communications manager in London. "I would like to think that if people switched off their tele-

vision, even for just one week. that they would see how much more there is to life beyond Neighbours. Family life is being eroded and one of the contributing factors is television." This week was officially des-

Wilson, whose husband, Chris.

ignated Turn Off TV Week by David Burke, a computer programmer from Hove, Sussex, and founder of White Dot, after witnessing the success of a similar crusade in the United States, where a reputed 3.5 million viewers hit the off button last year. "I think people who watch a lot of TV don't realise how much it dominates their life be-

the time," he said. "They start replacing reality with escapism. For example, they think the actors in the soap Friends are in fact their friends.

cause they are plugged into it all

Christine Airey, a shop assistant and her husband Mike. a policeman, of Brighton, have followed suit. The couple have four children, two of whom still live at home. The family disposed of the television a while ago, but somehow their children managed to sneak it back.

Mrs Airey, 45, said: "I would like to get rid of it permanently, but there is the rest of the family to consider."

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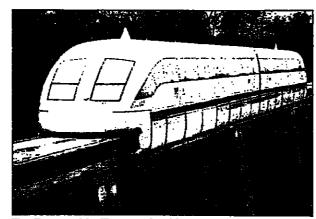
Imre Karacs

terday gave the green light to the world's fastest train, which is designed to glide from Hamburg to Berlin at speeds of up to 3iXimph.

Work on the Transrapid project, financed jointly by taxpayers and private enterprise, is due to begin next year, with the trains scheduled to make their first journey in 2005. They will cover the 185-mile distance, with a stop in Schwerin, in less than an hour. Transrapid will herald a new age of the railway. Levitating on a magnetic cushion half an inch above the specially constructed track, the light-weight vehicles will dispense with wheels, traditional brakes, friction and noise.

Such systems already operate on short stretches around the world, but the Hamburg-Berlin line will be the first to apply the technology at a distance long enough to swamp other means of transport. The government and the German companies pioneering Transrapid hope their courage will be rewarded with

export orders world-wide. But although several countries, notably Brazil, the Unit-ed States, Australia and China, have expressed interest in magnetic levitation (Magley) trains. no firm order has been re-



The Transrapid will cover the 185 miles from Hamburg to Berlin - with a stop - in less than an hour

DM3.7bn. Annual profit is cur-

rently projected at just under

DM1bn by 2010. Opponents say

that is still pic in the sky, but the

government commitment seems

to ensure that the project will

be realised. "I feel more opti-

mistic than ever in saying that Transrapid will come," Mr Wiss-

Money apart, Transrapid still

faces opposition on other

fronts. The Greens deplore the

elevated track's impact on the

landscape, and its higher ener-

gy use than traditional trains.

Resistance is strongest in Schleswig-Holstein, the Land

along a section of the track.

whose government of Social

Democrats and Greens is still

mann said yesterday.

ceived. The incalculable revenue from exports has long been the subject of dispute in that Transrapid will not make money at home for a long time.

Indeed, yesterday's pledge of funds by the Transport Minister, Matthias Wissmann, was precipitated by the withdrawal of three large German construction companies from the project. The estimated cost of the project has gone up by 10 per cent of original calculations. while revenue forecasts have

been revised downwards. According to the latest figures, the government will invest DM6.1bn (about£2.1bn), while the private sector will out up

fighting a rearguard battle, and can delay the planning stages. Villages along the way have found a powerful ally in the Bismarck family, whose wooded estate lies in the path of progress.

Their power of obstruction is more than balanced, however,

by the Transrapid lobby. The state railway company, and the private concerns Thyssen, mens and Adtranz have a vested interest in milking their investment. Chancellor Helmut Kohl and even the Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, are Maglev enthusiasts, and all but one of the regions affected support the line.

All arguments have, in any case, been outweighed by considerations of prestige. Germany was a late entrant to the high-speed rail race, and felt humiliated when France's TGV conquered rich foreign markets, rendering the rival German technology obsolete. Transrapid is meant to be the revanche, and something more. It is set to become a national symbol; the crowning glory of Germany's new capital, its space-age ter-minus by the Reichstag the

most important hub in Europe. There are plans to take the line further east, to Warsaw and beyond. That may seem an implausible dream now, but that's what they used to say about the futuristic blueprints of the Hamburg-Berlin shuttle.

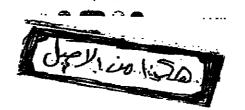


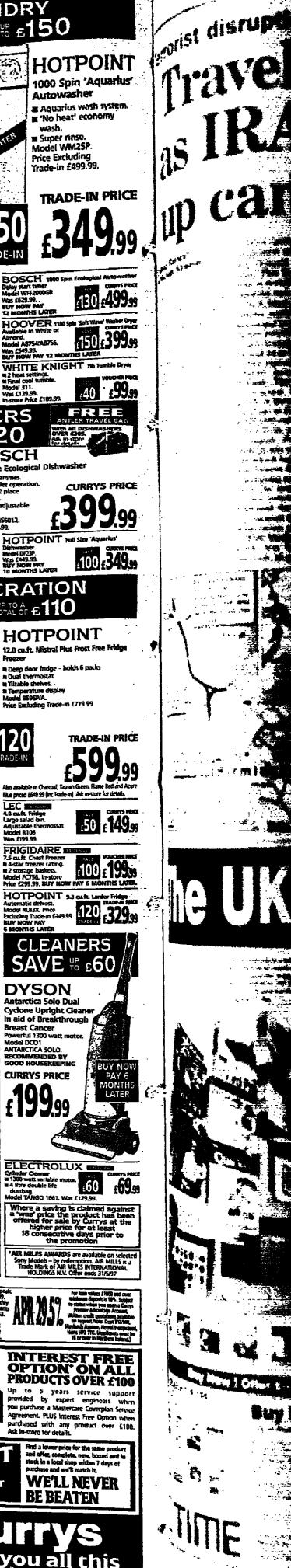
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Travel chaos as IRA keeps up campaign

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The IRA campaign of chaos yes-terday closed rail links and motorway sections and shut a London airport. An attempt was also made to blow up an electricity pylon. The incidents came after disruption to travel in the Midlands and North of England last Friday and Mon- 26 and 24 in Nottinghamshire. day's day of disruption in London and the south-east of

First to fall yesterday to the IRA's plan was Birmingham's New Street station, which was evacuated at 7.45am. The closure affected CrossCountry, West Coast main line and North London Railways services. The station reopened just before

By 8am police had closed large sections of the M6 and M5 link in the West Midlands and motorists were moved off the A38(M) Aston Expressway, the main route into Birmingham. It is believed that coded warnings had been received by the police. An AA spokesman said: junction 10 going southbound

congestion around the motorway closures and in Birmingham. This has hit one of the busiest stretches of the M6, with constant rush-hour queues."

At 8.30am motoring organisations reported that the M1 was closed in both directions between junctions 33 and 31 in South Yorkshire and junctions

Two explosions rocked a motorway stretch just before 8.30am. The blasts were close to junction 10A on the M6 north of Birmingham. No one was hurt in the explosions, but a 132,000-volt electricity pylon 400m from junction 10A was damaged. Police said the explosion was on a section of the M6 which had not been closed and believe the terrorists were attempting to topple the pylon

on to the motorway.
Two concrete blocks which surround the base of the two legs nearest the motorway had been blown off by the blasts. Tim Yardley, on his way to work, was half a mile from

heard a bang, which we thought was a good distance away, and within three minutes there was another one, which was literally 100 yards from the car."

Luton airport, Bedfordshire, was evacuated after police received a phone warning at 8.47am which claimed a bomb had been planted. The airport opened about 3pm, after bomb squad detectives had dealt with a suspect package.

The road alerts led to big rush-hour delays. There were reports of a 15-mile queue on the M6 and a six-

mile jam on the M1 in South Lorry driver Alan Makin,

who was delivering toilet tissue from Merseyside to the West Midlands, typified the stoical spirit of many of those caught up in yesterday's traffic chaos. Taking a break in Cannock, Staffordshire he said: "It's two o'clock now and normally by this time I'm back in Merseyside and

doing another job. "I reckon I've lost around half a day with the traffic delays around here."

Mr Makin, who lives in St Helens, described those who caused the chaos as "stupid", adding: "To be honest, the only person who's going to be upset is my boss.'

Roofer David Doyle was travelling home from London to his native Ayrshire, in Scotland, when he was caught up in the delays on the M1 and M6. He said: "It's taken me five bours to get here and normal-

ly I'd nearly be home by now.
"It's very frustrating but I suppose there's not much I can do about it. I heard about it on the radio but by then it was too late. guess if I'd known before I'd have just stayed where I was, in



Public and police unfazed this time

and Gienda Cooper

The police and public are becoming increasingly adept at dealing with the recent IRA bomb threats and the mass

The spate of coded warnings has helped improve and speed up emergency procedures, police said yesterday, while psychologists added that the public's reaction had become "100 parts irritation to one part fear".

"Although terrorist campaigns kill people, they disrupt people more than they kill them," said Dr James Thompson, director of the Traumatic Stress Clinic in London. "People are much more likely to have experienced a bomb scare or hoax than be injured. If you look at people's behaviour, it is irritation.

Terrorist attacks do register highly on a "dread risk scale", said Dr Nick Pidgeon, a senior lecturer in psychology at Bangor University, specialising in risk perception. The events people become most scared of, according to American studies, are those which present a new risk [such as nuclear power], or those risks over which we have no control, or have no choice whether to take such a risk.

In major accidents, such as the King's Cross underground fire of 1987 or the crashing of a DC-10 in the US in 1989. there can be what is known as the "social amplification effect" where people avoid modes of transport, although this soon returns to normal.

5 "My gut feeling is that the evidence

the threat over time," said Dr Pidgeon.

some people feel I am not going to allow [the terrorists] to get away with this. I'm going to get to work."

Dr Thompson said that the main behavioural change was that people were now far more vigilant about things they could deal with, such as unattended bags. He also called for the police to consider involving the public more: "I personally would prefer to be told there had been a bomb scare and what the police eval-uation of the risk was and be allowed to make up my own mind whether to continue my journey ... the public could be trained to look for bombs rather than be told in a non-specific way to be vigilant." *

Yesterday, roadways and Birmingham's New Street station were evacuated There was also the added aspect of the Metropolitan Police are also be- or two bombs among the houses to en-"moral outrage" that people felt at ter- coming more skilful at coping with the sure the police take all calls seriously and

However, because of the random nature of the warnings and as they often affect several police forces across a large area, significant delays and disruption are inevitable. The British Transport Police became

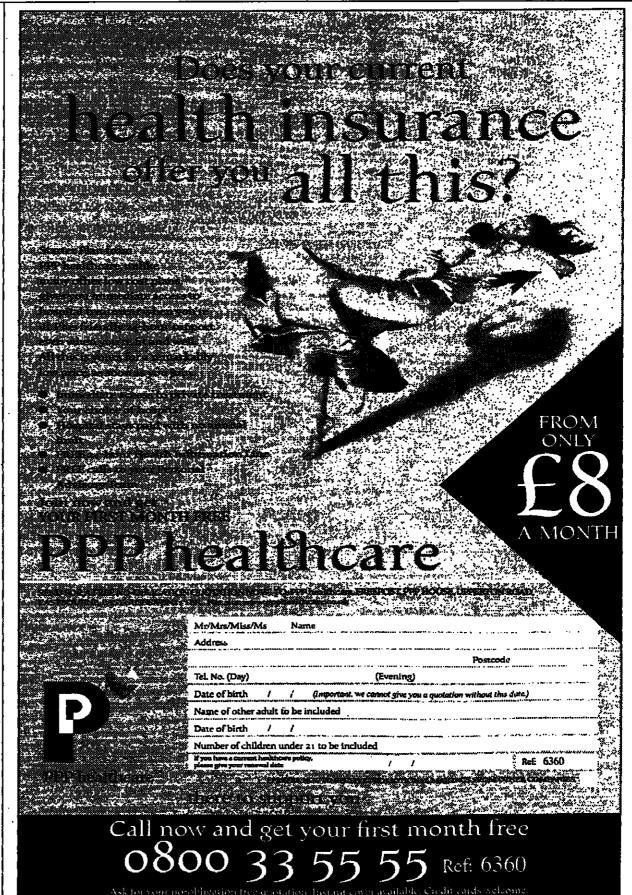
very proficient in dealing with evacua-tions during a spate of coded calls and bombs in stations during the early 1990s. Similarly, in Belfast during the 1990s, the RUC and army bomb disposal experts became quite proficient in dealing with regular bomb threats. On occasion, up to 30 simultaneous alerts were used to keep the security forces at full stretch. On the question of strategy, the IRA

have continued their tactic of using coded warnings to cause maximum disrup-

carried out a second controlled explosion at 2.30pm at junction 8 of the M6, the link There is very little experience of peo-









Noddy's new friend: Four-year-old Jake Birch plays with some of the Noddy goods on show at the London Toy and Model Museum. An exhibition of works by Enid Blyton - to mark the centenary of the author's birth - runs from today until 21 September at the Paddington gallery

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mistreatment at care home

A director of homes for mentally disabled people accused of ill-treating residents told yes-terday how she left the homes and never went back after the allegations were made.

Angela Rowe was now being treated for depression and anorexia, Kingston Crown Court, Surrey, was told. Jonathan Caplan, QC, for the prosecution, said the homes, Stoke Place Mansion House and Stoke Green House in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, were more like an army camp than residential centres

Mrs Rowe, with former members of staff Desmond Tully and Lorraine Field, denies rns by other former workers and relatives that residents were ill-treated.

The jury was directed by Mr Justice Baker not to be further concerned with four of the 16



charges. They were two charges of ill-treating residents made against Mrs Rowe and one charge of ill-treatment by Mr Tully and a similar charge against Mrs Field.

This leaves Mrs Rowe, 39, whose last given address was in Windsor, Berkshire, facing two counts of ill-treating residents at the homes run by she and her late husband, Gordon, between 1983 and 1993. She is also accused of two counts of wilfully

neglecting residents.
Mr Tully, 33, of Exeter, Devon, and Ms Field, 42, of Stoke Poges, each now face four counts of ill-treating residents at the homes.

The court has heard that if Gordon Rowe had not committed suicide last year, he would have faced charges as being "principally responsible" for what allegedly happened in the homes. Opening the case for the defence, Stephen Kramer, QC, for Mrs Rowe, said they house-keeper."

were "fencing at shadows, be-cause what is alleged is alleged over such a long period and so long ago."
He said Mrs Rowe denied al

legations of ill-treating a resident, who had Down's Syndrome, by forcing her to ear outside, even in the cold, and of pulling the hair of another resident. She also denied there were inadequate toiletries and toilet paper for the residents. The court heard that Mrs Rowe, one of a family of 10, first met Rowe when she was 10 and he was mental-welfare officer for her father. When Rowe set up a home for the mentally disabled in Somerset in 1979, he phoned Mrs Rowe, then 32, and asked her to join him as housekeeper. In 1983 she moved with him to Buckinghamshire, where they ran Stoke Place Mansion House and then later Stoke Green House. They mar-

Mrs Rowe was a director of the management company, Longcare, with 40 per cent of the shares, and was on the certificate of registration with Buckinghamshire Council for Stoke Green House. But, questioned by Mr Kramer, Mrs Rowe said she knew nothing about what being a director meant and had not even known until coming to court that she was named in the registration. She had had nothing to do with the business of the homes or with the education and training programmes but was, as in Somerset, a "glorified

ried in 1989.

Haughey pressured to help cash inquiry

The former taoiseach, Charles Haughey, is being invited to attend the payments-to-politicians tribunal or have legal represennation when it resumes on Monday to argue whether conversations he had with a lawyer Dunne should be made public. The tribunal heard earlier this week that Mr Haughey secretly received £1.3m from Mr Dunne while he was taoiseach between 1987 and 1991.

Proceedings at the Dublin Castle tribunal were suspended in some confusion yesterday when Noel Smyth, solicitor for Mr Dunne, revealed that he had had discussions with the politi-

which he had withheld from his earlier statement of evidence.

He said he had not disclosed them because he had been asked as a lawver to meet Mr Haughey privately. Mr Smyth said Mr Haughey had imparted information to him as a solicitor. "I am taking the view theretribunal to relate that information I would not give [it]."

After taking advice on whether to direct Mr Smyth to answer questions on the conversations, the tribunal chairman, Mr Justice McCracken, said Mr Haughey should have the opportunity to appear and say whether he felt the facts of the talks should remain confidential. Saturday Story, page 20

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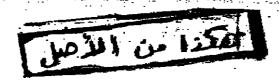
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Hallowed home of Welsh rugby up for auction in 3,000 bits

Cardiff Arms Park, the stadium that commands the affection of rugby enthusiasts where ever the oval hall is handled, comes under the hammer tomorrow – not as a job lot but in more than 3,000 separate items. The auction has been called be-

cause demolition of the historic home of Welsh rugby will begin shortly to make way for a new £100m stadium. due for completion by the time the 1999 Rugby World Cup kicks off. Everything from the seats to the

hair dryer in the visiting team's changing room is for sale. More than 80 turnstiles, the stretcher on which injured internationals have been carried off, the huge scoreboard and closed circuit television equipment jostle for attention with more prosaic fittings and fixtures like crockery and floor coverings. Bidding is expected to be particularly keen for the seat in the box once occupied

by Diana, Princess of Wales. The hallowed playing area is be-

Long tel. "Herpte." Sæde roller forst neder 1990 av

ing sold in five-metre squares of turf - about 1,000 in total. The pitch trodden by such heroes as Gareth Ed-wards, JPR Williams and Phil Bennett will end up as mini-shrines in the gardens of enthusiasts.

The posts have been withdrawn from sale to become the centrepiece of the new stadium's Museum of Rugby. "They are too special - the most evocative items of all," said Peter Owens of the Welsh Rugby Union.

The sale is estimated to raise tens of thousands of pounds which will be devoted to developing the game in Wales, with particular emphasis on youth rugby.

The site, in the heart of Cardiff. began life as a cricket ground leased in the middle of the last century from the Marquis of Bute, one of Wales's wealthy coal barons. The first rugby international was played there in April 1884.

Today is its swan song, when Cardiff and Swansea clash in the linal of the Swalec Cup, Wales's most coveted sporting trophy.

New-style lessons can boost boys

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

Mixed schools should consider dividing pupils up for single-sex lessons in an effort to close the growing gap between high-fly-ing girls and under-achieving boysiheadteachers said vesterday. The radical step is already. being tried by some heads amid evidence that the classroom gender divide is widening as girls improve faster than their male

It is one of a range of strategies for raising boys performance suggested in a handbook for schools, Can Boys Do Better?, published yesterday by the Secondary Heads Association.

Speaking on the first day of SHA's conference in Torquay, the union's past president and co-author of the handbook, Peter Downes, said the lead held by girls was now so great that if more grammar schools were introduced, they would be popnlated almost exclusively by girls, while boys would dominate the secondary moderns.

The trend could have fundamental implications for Conservative manifesto pledges of a grammar school in every town where parents want one. The proposals have already been attacked by Labour as unfair. leading inexorably to a secondary modern on every corner. SHA is also opposed to any extension of selection without overall planning.

Girls already out-perform boys in every GCSE subject except double science, and gen-erally outstrip them at A-level. of reasons, including their inability to concentrate for long periods, said Mr Downes, who retired as headteacher of Hitchingbrooke school in Cam-

bridgeshire in 1995. "A typical 13-year-old boy can concentrate for four or five minutes, while the girl can concentrate for 15 minutes. Boys prefer active learning, while girls are happy to work on proects alone," he said.

Once their attention has wandered, boys switched off in different ways. "Some just go quietly to sleep and go on qui-etly under-achieving, but others react by belting the boy next to

Moulsham High School, in Chelmsford, Essex, is one of several mixed comprehensives to try single-sex teaching. Boys and girls are taught separately for all subjects up to age 14, and for core subjects up to GCSE, though a sixth form is mixed.

The policy has improved per-formances for both boys and girls, the school believes, though the effect is hard to quantify. At Hinchingbrooke school

Mr Downes' proposal of singlesex teaching groups was rejected by staff, but boys-only assemblies and extra classroom help were introduced to boost boys' flagging performance.
Mr Downes said that though

be personally supported singlesex groups where necessary, not all heads favoured the ap-proach. Alternatives included monitoring pupils' progress more closely and targeting under-achieving boys earlier, and spreading the message that it was "cool to achieve".

Boys fell behind for a range Chemists take hay-fever drug off the shelves

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

Chemist's shops were clearing their shelves of hay-fever remedies containing the drug terfe-nadine yesterday following a warning over its safety from the Government's Committee on Safety of Medicines.

The move comes after increasing concern about the drug's effect on the heart in some patients. Twenty people have died while taking terfenadine products, 14 of them from heart-related problems, since it was first marketed in 1982.

in a letter to doctors and pharmacists, Professor Michael Rawlins, chairman of the committee, said that serious adverse reactions continued to be reported despite warnings issued in 1992 and 1994. People taking antibiotics, antifungals or lems may be at risk

increasing its uptake by the blood. It was because of the increasing complexity of the pre-cautions needed for its safe use that the committee had recommended terfenadine be made a prescription-only medicine, Professor Rawlins said. A spokesman from the De-

partment of Health said that by law the switching of a drug to prescription-only status was subject to three months consultation so terfenadine-containing products would still be available throughout the hay-fever season of May, June and July. Shops were being asked to remove the drug from open sale so customers could be advised directly by the pharmacist.

The following products con-

tain terfenadine: Aller-Eze Clear, Boots Antihistamine Tablets, Boots Hay Fever Relief Antihistamine Tablets, Boots who have heart or liver prob-lems may be at risk.

Grapefruit juice is also

Grapefruit juice is also known to interact with the drug, and Triludan Forte.



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'Independent' cleared of Iraq arms trial contempt

The Independent was yesterday. cleared of contempt of court in an action brought by the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, after the newspaper reproduced documents connected to an arms-to-iraq trial.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, said the publication of two extracts from the documents did not constitute contempt, nor had there been any intention by the newspaper to interfere with the course of justice.

The documents were central to the quashing of the convictions of four men who ran Ordtech, an arms technology company. The

to exports of arms to Iraq - had been withheld from the defence.

appeal, The Independent reproduced fragments of an intelli-gence report and a Foreign Office memorandum. The Attorney-General argued that this was in contempt of a court order that said the documents should be disclosed only for the purposes of the appeal. He applied to have the newspaper fined and sought iail sentences for lan Hargreaves, its former editor, and Chris Blackhurst, its former Westminster correspondent.

However, Lord Bingham, in Court of Appeal ruled in No-vember 1995 that they had not in a judgment handed down yes-terday after a hearing earlier this

papers – which suggested the a "significant and adverse effect editor of the *Independent on* Government turned a blind eye on the administration of justice". Sunday, had denied knowledge He went on: "Recognising that the restraints upon freedom

Reporting the outcome of the of expression should be no wider than are truly necessary in a democratic society, we do not ac-cept that conduct by a third party which is inconsistent with was in court for the appeal judg-ment, had reported to his sua court order in only a trivial or technical way should expose a party to conviction or contempt."

Philip Havers QC, counsel for the Attorney-General, had submitted that although the court order was directed at the four men and their lawyers, it was also binding on third parties such as the media. Lord Bingham noted that

both Mr Hargreaves, now edi-

tor of the New Statesman, and

on balance we are inclined to think that he did not." of the order. "We are in no

He said that journalists had made "a bona fide attempt to ascertain whether there was any restriction on publication of the documents. We conclude David Hellier, the reporter who that Mr Hargreaves believed that the newspaper could properly publish extracts from documents quoted in the judgment periors an exchange in which the of the court without infringing prosecution counsel reminded any order it had made."

Mr Hargreaves said afterwards: "This action by the Attomey-General was an attempt to narrow ... the freedom that journalists have to report contentious legal matters."He said he believed that courts would have to be much clearer in future about what restrictions they in-

Issue at heart of our secret society

tles in court. Still less, battles against the Attorney-General adjudicated by the Lord Chief Justice, whose ruling yesterday will make journalists just a little more confident about reporting what goes on in and around the

The case arose from the Independent's publication in November, 1995 of documents involved in the arms-to-Iraq

Hargreaves, editor of The Independent

pany called Ordtech had been found guilty of illegal arms exports to Iraq, even though papers concealed by ministers through

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revealed that they committed their crimes with the connivance of the authorities.

It took the intervention of Lord Chief Justice Taylor to prise these documents into the appeal process; their revelation led directly to the men's successful appeal, which concluded on 7 November, 1995. That same day, some of these contested documents fell into the

reporting the outcome of the appeal the next day. Lord Chief Justice Taylor re-

doubt that their denials are

truthful and accurate," he said.

tainty, he said about whether

the appeal judges about the ex-

'According to his affidavit, he

reported the exchange which had taken place in court," Lord

Bingham said. "There is, how-

ever, considerable doubt

whether he reported what coun-

sel said at the conclusion of the

judgment, including the refer-

istence of the order.

However, there was uncer-

ported our behaviour to the Attorney-General, who prosecuted the newspaper, myself and Christopher Blackhurst, the reporter involved, for criminal contempt. Our actions, he charged, "set at nought the basis upon which the Court of Ap-

reproduced snatches of them in structing the appellants not to use the papers for any purpose other than their appeal also meant this newspaper was not allowed to use them to inform its readers. Our argument was that Lord Taylor had not made clear he intended this order to apply to the press, even though we made every effort to check his position following the end of the appeal.

Ian Hargreaves is editor of





Ballet's grand old man returns after 17 years

David Lister Arts News Editor

The Royal Ballet will next week stage a new work by Glen Tetley, described as the last "grand old man" of international ballet. It will be the first work that the 72-year-old American choreographer, with more than 70 ballets behind him, has cre-

ated in this country for 17 years. The new abstract ballet, enitled Amores, will star Darcey Bussell and Stuart Cassidy. It will form part of a triple bill which will be the last full programme the Royal Bailet presents at Covent Garden in central London before the company goes on a major tour of Japan.

A Royal Ballet spokeswoman said that Tetley had "gone out to create a ballet which stretched six of the country's finest dancers to the limit". The remainder of the triple

bill will now take on a strange

aspect following a dispute between the Royal Ballet and the Balanchine Trust in New York. The Royal Ballet had advertised that it was staging, along with Amores, two ballets by Balanchine, Apollo and Sym-

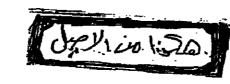
phony in C. However, the trust that controls performances of Apollo has refused The Royal Ballet permission to stage the piece unless it has prior casting approval. The trust wanted to watch the dress rehearsal of Apollo and then make its decision, only hours before curtain up on the first night next Wednesday.

The Royal Ballet director Sir Anthony Dowell has ruled out such a last-minute arrangement and the company has cancelled its plans to stage Apollo, which will be replaced by one of the Royal Ballet's well known works. The Judas Tree. choreographed by the late Sir Kenneth

Macmillan. The company is hav-

ing to contact every ticket hold-er to inform them of the change. It is understood the Balanchine Trust was concerned that the Royal Ballet star Irek Mukhamedov might be "too muscular" for the lead role in Apollo.

To add to the oddity of the situation, another Balanchine work, Symphony in C, will still be performed as part of the triple bill next Wednesday. That ballet is controlled by a separate trust, which has no worries about the suitability of the Royal Ballet to perform the work. ■ The Royal Ballet dancer Adam Cooper, who is leaving the company, opened in Los Angeles last night in the all-male Swan Lake presented by Adventures in Motion Pictures. The radical reinterpretation of the work, which played at a theatre in the West End of London last year, received huge advance soles at the start of its United States tour.



There's a great deal going on

عكداً من الأصل

Tory election posters leaked to Labour

Christian Wolmar

Mole sent copies of advertisements to Millbank in brown paper envelopes

In the continuing tit-for-tat war over leaks from each others' camps, Labour has admitted re-Unfortunately for Labour, source of the leak will centre on ceiving advance copies of all Tory advertising posters in the run-up to the election. A senior source at Millbank,

Labour's campaign headquarters, said that during the year leading to the launch of the election campaign, every Tory poster had been sent to the party a few days in advance.

"This has been really helpful. It has enabled us to prepare for all their attacks."

the source of information from Central Office appears to have dried up just before the start of dried up just before the start of and will do nothing to improve the campaign. Labour knew of relations between the party and the "New Labour, New Danger, the crying lion and the Britain is Booming" cam-paigns, but were not alerted to the infamous little-Blair-sitting-on-daddy-Kohl's-knee

Millbank sources say the posters turned up in brown pa-per envelopes. Suspicions on the

the advertising agency used by the Conservatives, MC Saatchi, its agency which have become strained because of the failure of its lion campaign and the Tories' continued failure to break through in the polls.

Claims and counter-claims about spies in each camp are now being levelled almost dajly and it is clear that both par-ties know quite a lot about each other's plans. The revelation about the advertising cam-paign follows the publication by the Tories earlier this week of Labour's "war book", a detailed outline of the party's

The Tories have also claimed that they have a mole inside Millbank who has provided Central Office with a copy of Tony Blair's election itinerary. The Tories have claimed that they have known every day where Tony Blair has been going, but the failure of the Tory chicken to turn up to many of Mr Blair's visits suggests this may be a bit of bravado.

Despite the leaks and counter-leaks, the very tight ecurity has managed to ensure that the real hot secrets of the campaign have remained

■ Voters in Blackpool are being offered free fish and chips at Harry Ramsden's in a campaign newspaper sent out by their Conservative candidate. Richard Booth, the would-be MP for the highly-marginal Blackpool South, bears the words: "Vote Booth. Vote for Blackpool. Vote Conservative."

The ad, placed and paid for by the restaurant, says: "Bring three hungry people to Harry Ramsden's Blackpool.

next to a coupon for the famous

"This voucher entitles you to a free haddock fillet meal when accompanied by three paying Conservative Party chairman

Last night the Liberal Democrats sent an angry solicitors' letter to Mr Booth's agent, Chris Hall, claiming that the ad constitutes "treating" and is il-legal under the Representa-

tion of the People Act. However, the Liberal De-mocrat peer, Lord McNaily of Blackpool, did not appear to be taking the matter quite so seriously.

In a statement too full of excruciating fish puns to be quoted at length, he said the

"... but he won't, So Blackpool's battered Tories have had their chips. Next Thursday they'll be knocked off their perch and find there is no plaice in Government for them," he

Mr Hall said the attack was

"absolute nonsense. "Harry Ramsden's always does a coupon for anybody to bring friends and have a free meal. It is a standard practice in this sort of environment. You can pick them up in any

PENSIONS ROW

Parties fail the funding test

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Both main parties are misleading voters about their plans for pensions, according to independent analysis of one of the key proposals in the Conserva-

The Institute for Fiscal Studies, a respected think-tank, says in an analysis for the Independent that Conservative proposal for a "basic pension plus" does, as Tony Blair claims, amount to replacement of the guaranteed basic state pension by a private pension. "It is effectively a privatisation of the state pension," said Paul Johnson, deputy director

This would apply only to people re-tiring after 2040, however, and not to people who are pensioners now or retire before then. The IFS argues that this privatisation would be a radical change to basic pension provision, and

one that is not demanded by funding problems. There would be no difficulin continuing to pay for state pensions through the tax system. But its analysis does not allow Labour to claim that pensions are safe in its hands. For it now proposes, like the Conservatives, gradually to reduce basic state provision by linking the value of the pension to prices rather than earnings. "We are effectively seeing general agreement that the basic pension will be gradually-phased out," Mr Johnson says.

In yesterday's, dispute both parties played down the fact that anybody who is under 20 now cannot count on receiving a state pension that provides enough to live on, no matter who wins the election. The pattern of pension provision is almost certain to involve two tiers, a basic state sum and a top-up private pension. The amount provided by the state, whether under Labour or the Conservatives, will be minimal.

have been stuff of all elections

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Bandied allegations that Tony Blair and John Major are peddling bare-faced and despicable lies should come as no surprise to anyone; the history of the election hustings is littered with lies.

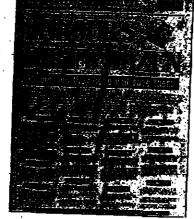
The first Labour government was defeated in the 1924 general election because of a forgery, the Zinoviev Letter, bought and disseminated by Conservative Central Office, which raised the spectre of British Communists being incited to bloody revolution. In the 1945 election campaign, Win-

ston Churchill said: "No Socialist system can be established without a political police ... They would have to fall back on some form of Gestapo, no doubt very humanely directed, in the first instance." Some first-time voters might not have been born in April 1979, when the Daily Mail published a front-page report

big lies they hope will save them." One election statement that hangs round Mr Major's neck like a political albatross is his statement during the last election that, "We have no plans and no need to extend the scope of VAT".

Yesterday, at Labour's election press

headlined: "Labour's Dirty Dozen: 12



Lies? The Daily Mail's frontpage report in April 1979

conference, Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said of Mr Major: "He lies when he says that the tax burden has not increased since the last election. "Everybody who pays tax, who pays

VAT, who pays National Insurance, who gets mortgage tax relief, and mar-ried couple's allowance, everybody who pays taxes knows that the tax burden has

The Conservatives reply that in the financial year before the last election, 1991-92, the Treasury Red Book shows a tax burden of 36.5 per cent of national income, compared with 36 per cent in the year before this election, 1996-97. But if you take the year of the last election, 1992-93, the tax burden was 34.5 per cent, compared with 36.25 per cent this year.

In one passage of a reply to his press conference yesterday, Mr Major also suggested there should be no bust at-tached to the current boom - a statement that clearly defies the cyclical forces of economic gravity.



Warm welcome: A supporter braves the bad weather to cheer John Major during his walkabout in liford, east London, yesterday

Chanting East-Enders make Major's day

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

John Major was mobbed by Asian supporters yesterday when his campaign went to the East End of London.

The crush was so great that security officers protecting the Prime Minister had to take Norma Major out of the crowd for her personal safety. In a later walkabout at llford in east London, Mrs Major, still apparently shaken by her experience in the crowd, remained in the background while the Prime Minister did a walkabout for the first time in the campaign. In some of the most extraordinary scenes

of the five-week campaign, Mr Major surrounded by police, security men, and camera crews in Whitechapel and was nearly

Mr Major had intended to spend some time inside the forecourt of the mosque in Whitechapel, but he found a chanting mob there shouting "long live John Major - East-End welcome."

There was a smattering of heckling, but buoyed by the reception which prevented the Prime Minister completing his programme at the mosque, Mr Major said: This is the bit I enjoy most." He clearly felt that if the reception at the

mosque could be repeated across Britain, he would be home and dry. There was booing when he went on a walkabout later in liford High Street, where the Tories are fighting one of the key marginals. There are eight Conservative seats in Lon-

crushed by the weight of chanting Asian don with majorities of less than 10 per cent in power, is finding it impossible to shake which Labour is hoping to take with a swing of less than 2.5 per cent, including Hayes and Harlington, Croydon North, Edmonton, Brentworth, Mitcham and Morden and Ilford South, won by Labour in 1992 under

> The Tories have been boosted in Tower Hamlets where Labour have installed Oona King against the wishes of some local supporters. Sher Ullah, 28, a student, said as the Prime Minister did his walkabout: There are a lot of floating voters who are planning to vote Conservative next week, because they do not like the way the candidates have been selected by their party." The Tories are fielding Kabir Choudhury,

> who was born in Bangladesh. But Mr Major, after 18 years of the Tories

off the past.

He went by boat to London Docklands yesterday to highlight the regeneration of the city accompanied by Steven Norris, the former transport minister for London, whose other claim to fame was his widely publicised string of lovers. Also on the Thames ferry the Beta, was Sheila Gunn, the Prime Minister's press security, who was one of Mr Norris's mistresses. Mr Norris once explained the reason why people prefer to use their cars was that "you don't have to put up with dreadful human beings

sitting alongside you".

They remain on friendly terms, but did not exchange so much as a glance as the campaign sailed down the Thames to

THE HURRIED VOTER'S GUIDE

THE CAMPAIGN

.

Pensions took over as the issue of the day, but all the parties had their own themes. Labour used its morning press conference to give more details of a Crime and Disorder Bill which it intends to introduce in its first session if it wins the election. The Bill would deal with drugs, alcohol, juvenile offenders, anti-social behaviour and a curiew for children under 10.

The Liberal Democrats dropped their theme of the day - pensioners - to release a statement from a nurse who had seen a 22-year-old man die from cancer after having En exploratory operation cancelled three limes. The nurse, who had contacted the Mirror newspaper last week, said she would vote Liberal Democrat because the party had the best policies on health.

The Conservatives were also forced off their theme of the day, "Britain's economic, miracle", to defend their plans on pensions. Labour had claimed that the Tories' "basic Pension plus" scheme which would gradually replace the state pension with private Drovision would mean its abolition. John Major hit back, saying that he would resign if his Cabinet ever abandoned its commitment

to pensions for all.

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarks, defended his party against claims that it would put VAT On tood if it won the election. Such measures Would be "lunacy", he said.

KEY ARGUMENTS

John Major said he had never seen campaign tactics like the ones used by Labour over pensions before.

This is just the politics of crude

fantasy, scurrilous, unscrupulous campaigning in order to win votes from people who they wish to frighten.
This sort of scare is a wholly different dimension. It really brings politics down into the gutter," the Prime Minister said.

Tony Blair warned of rises in crime under a lifth-term Conservative government. "The fear of crime hangs like a dark cloud in the air," the Labour leader said. "Two-thirds of women pensioners scared to leave their house et night. Our pensioners prisoners in their own homes who only want to live In peace. Surely the prisoners should be those who commit the crimes, not those who are the victims of crime. It

cannot go on. The Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, said the Conservatives internal wars were tearing them apart. "The Conservative Party are now at

years," he said.

war with themselves. Whether or not in government or opposition, I think the Conservatives as a political force may well be disabled for a number of

GOOD DAY



Steven Norris was in his element yesterday as he accompanied John and Norma Major on a riverboat tour along the Thames in London. The former transport minister gave a running commentary to fournalists as the catamaran cruiser -

nicknamed Major's battle boat went from Charing Cross Pier to the Docklands complex, to see the



Tory Chicken has been strangely absent from the campaign trail recently. He reappeared yesterday as Tony and Cherie toured the Port of Dover. But It seems the poor bird has become a focus for anti-Tory feeling, and he felt the brunt of some discontent from the crowd. Worse was to come, as T.C. was detained by Port of Dover police and questioned about his accreditation. He was released, but inquiries were last

sight of last year's IRA bomb at South Quay, highlighting examples of inner-city regeneration. night said to be ongoing.

ONE TO REMEMBER John Major said he would walk out of politics and trigger an Immediate general election should a Cabinet ever attempt to push him into scrapping the state pension. His declaration came after another round of insults when Labour refused to drop its claim that the pension would be abolished by the Tories, it raises the question as to whether an isolated Prime Minister would have the power to force a general election in defiance of his Cabinet.

HOGWASH

Labour responded to a request from Your Garden magazine to choose a flower that best reflected the party. It chose its own red rose, because, according to a Millbank minion, "red roses symbolise love, respect and dignity. The red rose of Labour reflects the strength of our commitment to Britain's future". Thanks are due to Your Garden magazine for unearthing such

THE OTHER PARTIES

the old boundaries.

The Scottish Nationalist Party said that an independent Scotland would give £288 million a year in overseas aid, equivalent to 0.7 per cent of GDP. Dr Alian Macartney, the party's external affairs spokesman, said the main thrust of a Scottish aid programme would be to assist long-term development.

Sir James Goldsmith addressed Asian voters at a visit to the London mosque with his daughter Jemima. He said a federal Europe would leave the Asian community "small" in a "vast, amorphous, soulless state." "Children will have to find an alternative to their familles," he added. "They will go into gangs."

MEDIA STAR



Norma Major had to be rescued by security guards from a crowd of chanting John Major fans at the Whitechapel mosque in London's East End. The Prime Minister and his wife had intended to spend some time at the mosque, but were confronted with a large crowd shouting "Long live John Major - East-End welcome". Mrs Major later appeared in the centre of liford in east London, but seemed somewhat shaken by her ordeal. From that point onwards she remained in the background, as Mr Major went on his first walkabout in

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by Aanonymous

seemed alive to

he Candidate stood on the observation platform at the top of the Customs tower overlooking Dover harbour, and waved at the cameramen. Next to him Mrs Candidate leaned against the railing and waved as well. Below him, on one side he looked down upon a long pier, where 60 snappers and piranhas gazed up at him and his wife. On the other side was the English Channel. Nowhere within five miles was

there a voter. After three minutes he would gen-tly usher Mrs Candidate back into the building and return to ground level. You had to do it. If you wanted to lead a nation, do your bit, exercise power over real and tangible things - then you had to accept the absurdities. The Iron Lady herself had once been

photographed in her best suit holding a baby calf, yet she had led the country for more than a decade, taken it through a war and fashioned **6** Mrs Candidate a revolution which still bore her name. The tyrant media needed their snaps and their stories. Without them the promises the potential for wouldn't get reported, and no message would get through.

humiliation 9 He had once - long before becoming leader himself - complained about it to the Welshman: the ridiculous "photo-opportunities", involving posing with innocent members of the public, the ghoulish appearances at the bedsides of cancer victims and the visits to ma-

nure-littered country cattle markets. The Welshman had sucked at his pipe and quoted an anecdote from the early, precarious days of Bolshevik rule in Russia. A horny-handed veteran of the struggle had been called to see Comrade Lenin in his Kremlin office. "Comrade," said Lenin, "I want you to be our ambassador to France." "But Vladimir Ilich." replied the squeamish veteran, who believed that ambassadors were a bourgeois concept in an era of proletarian internationalism, "surely I will not have to wear a top hat?" "If necessary, should the revolution require it," said his implacable leader, "you will wear two top hats." "Lenin was serious about power," concluded the Welshman. "Are you?"

So he'd steeled himself. The worst bit was all the stuff about body-language. When he should Talking tough: Parties compete to play the law and order card

Blair promises Bill to tackle youth crime

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

have been thinking about his post-

election cabinet, he was forced to

worry about hand-shaking tech-

liques. The problem here was

twofold. What did you say? And

what did you actually do with your

hands? He had ended up with

"good to see you" as his standby phrase, but found it hard to get any

real enthusiasm into his voice. The

her prominent cheekbones

looked like two bruises on

her delicate face, and her

to the potential for humiliation

that existed in so much of what she was forced to do. Yet she

had not complained once.

And (when he thought

about it) he felt sorrier still for

the pensioner whose home would be invaded by piranhas

deep brown eyes seemed alive

right arm would be extended, suggesting confi-dence, and the shake itself would always be firm.

The left arm was, he knew, a problem. It would be un-English to deploy it - like Bill Clinton did

 to grab the elbow or drape round the shoulder of unknown punters. So it ended up bent and tentative by his jacket pocket, looking as useless as Bob Dole's shattered limb.

But sorry as he felt for his left arm, he felt

much sorrier for Mrs Candidate. Increasingly

and whose life story would make gossip on the battlebus, simply because she had featured in

It was the way things were. In '92 the Grey

Man had raised a scare by making absurd claims

about the Welshman's tax plans. How unfair!

How untrue! And yet how well it had worked.

So this election the compliment had been re-

turned; the Grey Man's "pension plans" were

now scaring the daylights out of the electorate.

et on which adult discussion was possible. On that

Utopia he would have quarrelled with the Grey

Man's timing, but agreed with the general

thrust of his policy for reforming pensions. And

the Grey Man in return would have admitted that

the Candidate had transformed his party, but that

No, this was no Utopia. So he turned slight-

ly and looked back over Dover beach, where

the poet Matthew Arnold had once felt the tide

there were still concerns about devolution.

In another universe, perhaps, there was a plan-

a five-minute election stop.

A crime and disorder Bill to tackle anti-social behaviour. youth crime and drugs would be among the first measures brought in by a new Labour government, Tony Blair

said yesterday.

Mr Blair used his party's morning press conference to attack Tory policies on law and order as strong on rhetoric but

"The Conservatives were elected on a law and order platform but their record has borne no relation to their rhetoric,"

he said. "Only one crime in 50 ends in a conviction. Petty crime is tolerated, the unacceptable accepted.

Mr Blair warned that a Conservative fifth term would mean a further rise in violent crime, fewer convictions and more people living in fear.

Labour's Bill would herald the appointment of a "drug czar" to co-ordinate the fight against illegal drugs, the reform of the youth justice system to bring in fast-track punishment and a new crime of racial

It would also include new rules to prevent the intimida-

local authorities to prevent alcohol abuse and a night-time curfew on children under 10. The Bill would also include measures to deal with anti-social behaviour and "nuisance

neighbours". Labour said violent crime had risen by 11 per cent since a half million crimes and 450,000 convictions for criminal offences, but by 1995 there were five million crimes but just

300,000 convictions. Labour's home affairs spokesman, Jack Straw, challenged Michael Howard, the

Home Secretary, to say which of Labour's anti-crime measures he would oppose if the party won the election.

Mr Howard did not answer the challenge directly, but he claimed Labour had admitted it would not be as tough on crime as the Conservatives. Labour would not imple-

ment the Conservatives plans for automatic life sentences for repeat rapists and armed robbers or amend the Crime (Sentences) Act to reinstate tough minimum sentences for career

burglars and drug dealers. Their proposals to tackle nuisance neighbours would

give victims less protection than provisions in the Tories' Protection from Harassment Act, he said. Under that act, he said, anyone who behaved on more than one occasion in a way which caused someone to feel harassed would be liable to up to six months in prison.

The Conservatives would provide £75m to pay for CCTV cameras and money for 5.500

extra police. The truth is that Labour talk tough but act soft," he said. "If you want a party which is prepared to be tough on criminals, vote Conservative on



Real lives: Tony Blair taking tea and hearing Folkestone residents' stories in the Eastcliffe Pavilion Cafe yesterday

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Tea and sympathy for victims who live in Howard's backyard

Steve Boggan

Tony Blair took the fight over crime into Michael Howard's back yard yesterday as part of Labour's attempt to highlight fears

over law and order.

The Labour leader met victims of crime in the Home Secretary's Kent constituency, Folkestone and Hythe, where recorded offences have increased by 167 per cent since the Tories came to power.

During a heavily stage-managed event, Mr Blair and his wife, Cherie, took tea with eight people whose lives had been touched by threats, violence, robbery or burglary. The victims, all Labour supporters, had been lined up in advance, but no one among the party's spin doctors took pleasure in learning that one of them, who had wit-nessed a robbery, was on the frightening end of a second violent crime just hours before meeting Mr Blair.

Michelle Milton, 25, had been invited to tell the Labour leader about a robbery last year at the Co-op shop in Cheriton where

she works as assistant manager. However, on Thursday night, the shop's cashier was held up at knife point for a second time.
"I still feel a bit shaken," she said yesterday. "I've been working there since I was 16 and there never used to be any trouble. But now, there are kids stealing all the time.

← Kids are stealing all the time, things are getting worse 9

there are threats of violence and there have been these two robberies.

"Michael Howard talks tough, but things are getting worse. He promises to put more police on the beat and then closes down our local police station after 6pm every night. What kind of policing is that?"

They were sentiments repeated over and over again. Frank Williams, 81, and his wife. Maisie, 73, told how they were afraid to go out at night; Catherine Goodall, 82, described her two burglaries; butcher David Anderson told how youths had twice smashed his shop front; and store owner. Ejaz Mohammed, 63, described the two times he had fought off would-be robbers one of whom was armed with a knife and a baseball but and one who carried a gun.

It was an exercise that could have been played out in any constituency in the country and it is by no means certain that Labour's plans to halve the time taken to get young offenders to court would have prevented any of the crimes.

But one thing was undeniable: the fear of crime is high on the list of voters' concerns, particularly among the elderly. And in Mr Howard's constituency - where he sits with an unassailable majority of 8.910 over the Liberal Democrats and 21,000 over Labour - that fear is as real as anywhere else in the country.

The clue is in the red boxes

Kim Sengupta

isters leave office.

It is the red box surrender. The Independent can reveal that in an astonishing outbreak of defeatism no less than six Conservative Cabinet ministers have asked for their ministerial boxes to be packed up as souvenirs something only done when min-

By tradition, departing ministers are allowed to take away one of these potent symbols of power to remind them of them of when they were lions of the front benches. Calling them in indicates a certain lack of confidence that John Major would form the next government.

Two of the six can pay the £50 fee and take away their boxes with their heads held high. They had both indicated they do not seek to serve in government again. One of them is \$ir Patrick

en no indication that they want to go. Informed sources say that all four would have had high hopes of continuing as ministers if the Tories got back in. The boxes, which cost £795 each new, have to have their locks. modified before the departing minister can take them.

But the other four have giv-

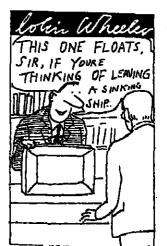
The various government departments pass on the names to the manufacturers, Barrow and

Hepburn, in preparation for the

changeover. A Whitehall source said: "The list which has arrived at the makers makes very interesting reading. Two of them make sense, because both the men said they were going.

"But others have obviously given up all hopes of office in the near future - the Tories would not win, or they would lose their seats.

Barrow and Hepburn have been making the red boxes for Whitehall since the 1920s and are known for their discretion. However, the list passes through several hands before getting to them.



Wavering voters deserting Tories, poll says

Barrie Clement

Within the last 24 hours, reluctant Conservative voters have started to drift away from the party, according to private Lib-

eral Democrat polls and canvassing returns. Senior Liberal Democrats said last night that they were the beneficiaries in their key marginals, while it was understood that Labour was attracting the "switchers" in their target seats. One source said the campaign seems to have gone through three flection is persuading people to return to

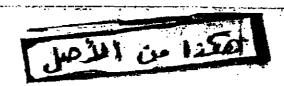
phases. While Labour was in a command-ing position four weeks before the election. their original choice. Although we can't claim any scientific basis for the assertion. later the Conservatives started to pick up

votes as the European issue came to the fore, Over the last day or so, however, concerns over Europe had abated and those who had returned to the Conservatives, are now going back once more to the opposition parties. Elsewhere sources confirmed

the Liberal Democrats' impression. An official said: "Further and deeper re-

we believe that voters now have a settled idea that the rascals must go. This is mixed with anger over what has been go-ing on in the Conservative party."

The sources pointed out that national polls are invariably two or three days behind what is happening on the ground. The contentions of the senior sources will be tested when surveys are published at the beginning of next week.



MICH WAY 139

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THE INDEPENDE

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Tony Heath

gor, Northern Ireland, to Es-

6 He will

represent us

well – he's

very sincere 7

Opik headed for the North-

east to join Proctor & Gamble,

where he rose swiftly to become

somiel training manager - a

hopes to exchange for the letters

"You can't grow up in a fam-

MP on 1 May.

their country in 1945.

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announced he would stand down after 14 years at Lembit Opik, Montgomeryshire's Liberal Democrat candi-Westminster. Except for a blip in 1979, when the Tories unexdate, has one of the most pectedly captured the seat, Montgomeryshire has been Libintriguing CVs of any election hopeful. He was born in Baneral territory for more than a

tonian parents who fled from the Communists who took over Mr Carlile leaves behind a majority of more than 5,000 over the Tories, sufficient, it seems, to see Mr Opik home. A philosophy degree at Bris-tol University followed. Then Mr But no chances are being taken. "Paddy's been here twice and David [Sir David Steel] once," the energetic Mr Opik said as he strode round Tan Yr Allt, a 1960s estate contrasting sharply with the timber-framed black-and-white houses that dot Llanidloes.

The Rev Penny Burkill, who looks after half a dozen Methodist congregations, was impressed: "He's the sort of person who will represent us well

- he's very sincere," she said. Back in town, Mr Opik exthe detergent giant's global perpanded on one of his favourite pastimes - motorcycling. He lengthy job description which he bumped into Simon Evans. about to ride off on a gleaming 750cc machine to his job as a computer operator in Newily so affected by politics as mine town, 10 miles away. "I own without wanting to right two," Mr Opik remarked modwrong," he says.

He won the nomination distances and fuel consumption against stiff opposition last September when Alex Carlle problem for Owen Jarman, a

QUOTES OF THE DAY

the Conservative Party

Conservatives a bunch of dried flowers - whilst decorative, they have no substance or life to them -

Your Garden' magazine,

Democrats what flowers

they would send the other parties

asking the Liberal

We would send both Labour and the

The Conservatives are In I don't think they're xenophobic. I don't near panic this morning think they all hate because we are telling the foreigners: Lhope none of them hate - shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown on foreigners. - Kenneth Clarke on pensions

> The public has been fed a diet of Euro-myth and Euro-fear, so when the time comes to decide, who will blame them for voting against closer relations with our neighbours? - Church of England

newspaper Compiled by Sam Coates



72-year-old retired farmer visiting Lianidloes from his remote mountain home. "We have a post bus and let's hope the Post Office isn't privatised," he said. Mr Opik nodded vigorously. Trays of meats ranging from

played at Edward Hamer's shop, underlining Mid-Wales's dependence on pastoral farming. BSE is much talked about. The Tory candidate, a farmer. Glyn Davies, has had six cases in his herd. "I well understand prime steak to pig's liver are dishow much of a shock BSE has

been," he says. The latest European Union rebuff to Britain is not exactly helpful to the Tory

Labour, third in 1992, is fielding Angharad Davies, a 25-year-old political researcher regarded as a rising star.

Helen Jones, of Plaid Cymru, the Green Party's Sue Walker, and John Bufton, of the Referendum Party are striving to make an impact but without much success.

"I have a 70 per cent chance of

winning, the Tories a 30 per cent chance," he says. A man of many parts, he claims to have kwed flying ever since falling out of a tree when he was seven. He holds a pilot's licence, Mr Opik is refreshingly open. paraglides and is an amateur

Lembit Opik, campaigning in Montgomeryshire, hopes for an easy win in this traditionally Liberal seat, but is taking nothing

Photograph: John Voos

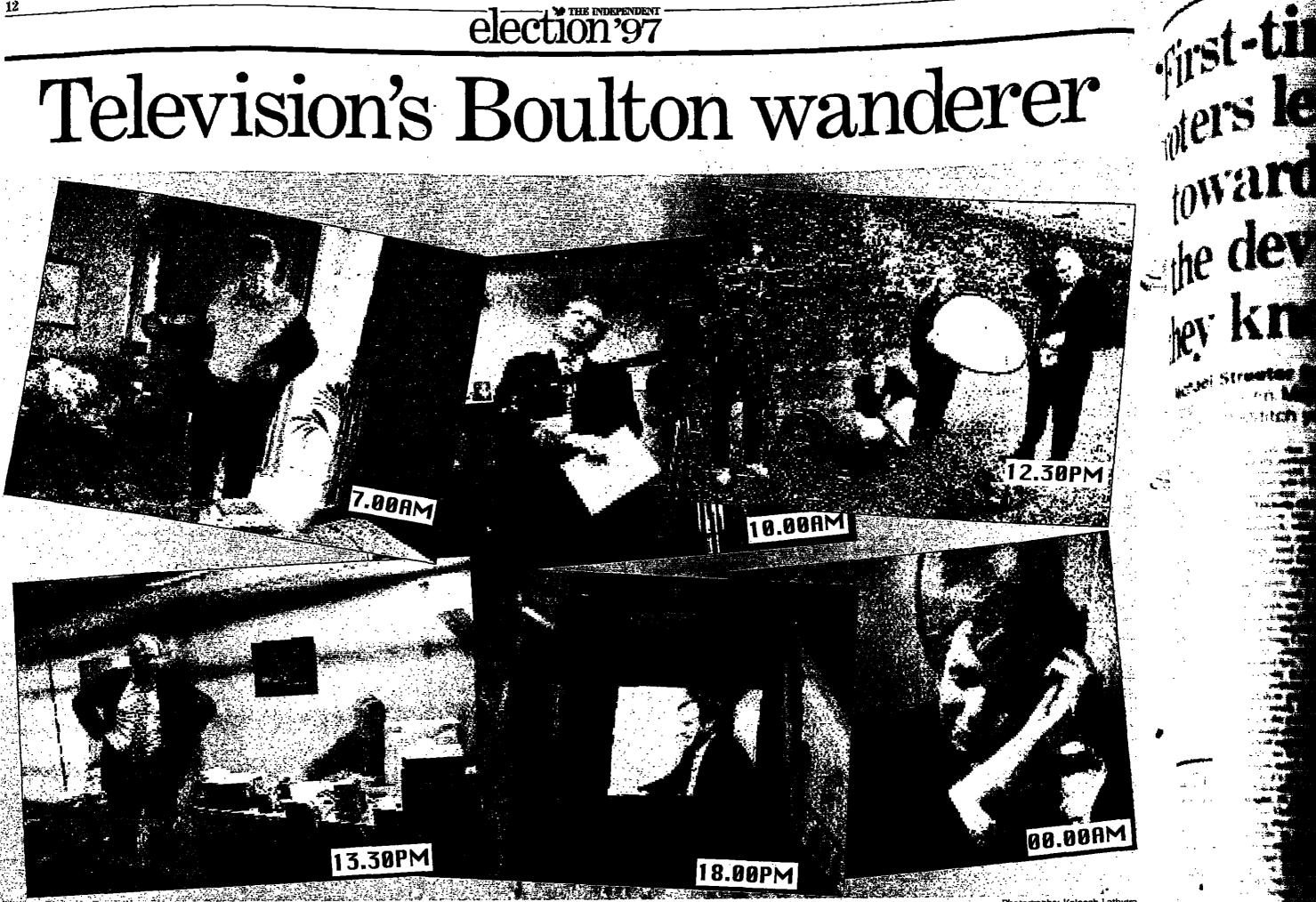
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THE VECTRA FROM VAUXHALL



Photographs: Kalpesh Lathigra

7:00am Boulton wakes at the Royal Horseguards Thrasher says. Boulton's schedule, he observes, is exhausting. "But you get pulled Hotel in Whitehall, his home for the duration of the campaign. At 8am, after stopping in at Sky's Millbank offices, he arrives at the Liberal Democrats' Take your daughters to work" press conference. Meets one four-year-old afterwards. "Have your picture taken with Adam," urges mum-my. "Wise choice," says Boulton, as the child

8:15am Boulton's first tele-vision appearance of the day. Returns to Sky studios. Then on to Conservative press conference at 9.20am on "Labour's Emergency Budget", where John Major, Kenneth Clarke and a grinning Brian Mawhinney issue dire warnings on Labour's planned July Budget. Unhappy with their answers to his questions, Boulton spends 10 minutes haranguing Tory strategist Danny Finkelstein before filing another live piece to camera. "Not a bad morning." he concedes, mulling over a rare (if mute) election appearance by Virginia Bottomley. "Sometimes I get woken up early to do something at 7am."

10:00am Boulton sets off for Labour's press conference, accompanied by Sky's election psephologist, Professor Michael Thrasher. "The last general election, we fin-ished at about 5.30am. I went straight to

serves, is exhausting. "But you get pulled along. You think, "if he can do it, then I should be able to".

After the press conference, Boulton files an update and then finds time for a quick election analysis for a Middle Eastern television crew in a nearby park. "You have to assume you could be on camera at any moment." he says.

Returns to office for forward-planning meeting. "Everyone else does split shifts. He's the only one that goes straight through," says a producer admiringly. Meanwhile, the Daily Telegraph's Petronella Wyatt phones to cancel an appearance on the evening show. "Aha! Petronella's got a crush on Adam!" exclaims a colleague. For the first time that morning, Boulton is momentarily flustered.

12:30pm Another live link from outside the Commons, about the parties tax "black holes", followed by a further three promotional slots for his Sunday show – all different the least the state of the st ferent, to account for an unfinalised guest list. Boulton, apparently famous for his dishevelled appearance, is bullied into combing his hair. ("There's a joke in the office that Adam's the man Armani would pay not

to wear his suits," says a colleague).

A colleague says it is not unusual for Boulton to do a live interview every hour. Stops to talk to elderly couple who. despite bed; he went on to do interviews at Downhearing he is not from the Referendum Paring Street. I thought he was mad," Professor ty, reveal their fears for post-EMU pen-politicians have breath so bad it could slay recognition."

Early rise, on to press conference, promo, back to studios, host poll special, midnight close - a day in the life of TV's busiest newsman

If you thought politicians worked long hours during this election, spare a thought for the people covering it. Adam Boulton, political editor of Sky News, is on screen more than any other television journalist during the campaign.

As well as hosting two hour-long flagship political shows daily, Boulton and for his trouble correspondence than \$150,000 a year.

a day, and for his trouble earns more than £150,000 a year. On Thursday, The Independent spent a day - all 18 hours of it - with the man who has been tipped for the top political job in

broadcasting, political editor of the BBC. Report by Jojo Moves

of his interview with Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat's economic spokesman.

1:15pm To the lvy for lunch with Major adviser Jonathan Haslam, to meet on planned dogumentary series, Major in Power. ("It will work whatever the outcome"). Boulton has been sent a free packet of Clorets mints. "Not a bad idea." he concludes. "Some

you." The Independent notes these names

3:30pm Into make-up in pre-paration for 10 minute interview with Malcolm Bruce. Large amount of concealer applied under the eyes. Emergency sponge applied to the remains of lunch on shirt. Boulton apparently does not mind if people think him slovenly.

throughout the capital. The eight-page special included ar-

ticles purporting to expose the

fallacy of the free market and the

death of democracy. The detailed parody also mimicked many of

lowed by stint on telephone. Then lengthy discussion with Sky colleagues on how President Clinton's style compares with British political leaders, in preparation for appearance on the 6pm show of Joe Klein, author of *Primary Colors*, the semi-fictionalised story of the Clinton campaign.

An internal memorandum reveals that Boulton is on call for 20 hours a day during the election. "I do get ribbed about the amount of time I spend on screen," he admits. "Some people are surprised to see me off it." Does he ever fluff his interviews when he gets tired? "No, but the - er, er," Boulton pauses. "The ... verbal dexterity

4:30pm Labour's heritage spokesman, Jack Cunningham, arrives for interview. He stands in the office for some minutes before anyone notices. "That's alright," he says. "I've done so many interviews today it's quite nice to be left in peace."

Boulton works on rewriting scripts for his 6pm programme. The Independent rejoices at his first yawn of the day.

6:00pm Boulton hosts his live one-hour show. including a debate with Suzanne Moore about the female vote. Afterwards, he changes into two different suits to do further promos until 7.35pm. At this point, he says, he usually has some

3:50pm Interview with Mal"quiet time" where he telephones his family ("I think he sends them whates too." jokes one colleague.) But does he have any interests outside politics? "My family. Plants. These are all mine," he says, gesturing towards the office foliage. But carlier in the day, a political writer revealed something of a scoop. "I saw him at the pic-tures on Saturday. The Screen on the Hill. in Belsize Park. He does have a social life." At 9pm Boulton breaks off from his supper to do another live link, his tifth of

> At 11pm, he hosts his second hour-long live show, including a satellite interview with Joe Klein, and debates the day's issues with Bea Campbell and Des Wilson, Grins all round when Klein compares Blair to Clinton thus: "We've seen these lines re-hearsed by the political equivalent of Olivier. A great politician, Blair is. Olivi-

> 12:10am Boulton, removing make-up, has brief logistical discussion with remaining staff about following day's trip to Birm-

Returns to the hotel. He will go to sleep at about 1am, and be ready to leave for Birmingham at 7am.

How does Boulton wind down? He is teetotal for the duration. "I read tomorrow's newspapers," he says. "Oh, and I might watch Vincent Hannah's (political) programme." Your reporter, shaking her head, makes her excuses and leaves.

Spoof paper claims election cancelled | Cancer death revives

top of their agenda.

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Ben Summers

Thousands of bewildered commuters were handed copies of a spoof newspaper, Evading Standards, a parody of the London Evening Standard, last night.

Education

Labour

Conservative

It's our job.

Liberal Democrat

to a manifesto.



ganda wing of Reclaim the massive public cynicism". Streets, announced "General However, the first issue of Election cancelled - Election Evading Standards never made

copies were impounded by police and three distributors arrested. They were charged with incitement to cause affray and obstruction. group calling itself the propa- collapses as new polls reveal

Yesterday, more than 20 volunteers handed out 20,000 copies of the second issue at Underground and mainline stations

the advertisements running in the original – including a twist on a Labour slogan: "Britain deserves better - than politicians."

The group producing it claims to be the propaganda wing of Reclaim the Streets. which itself claims to be more They all say education is left-wing than communists. Supporters of the radical organisation were heavily involved in protests against the Newbury bypass in Berkshire and the extension to the M11.

According to a spokesman for the paper, its aim was to sendup the banality of the election; and to emphasise that "the fallacy that passes for a democracy is not the only avenue for people who want to make a real difference to society". He said production of the paper had been shrouded in secrecy for fear of action, either by the police or the Evening Standard.

The Evening Standard re-

Political Correspondent In a move which had echoes of the "Jennifer's ear" controver-

rats yesterday claimed the vote of a nurse who said she had just seen a 22-year-old patient die needlessly from cancer. The anonymous nurse, who told her story in a newspaper interview last week, had her words read on video by an ac-

tress at two Liberal Democrat

sy of 1992, the Liberal Democ-

press conferences yesterday. The party said she had spoken at length to its leader. Paddy Ashdown, after seeing bim throw away a prepared speech and read out an article based on her experiences to a gathering of health professionals.

A week ago, The Mirror filled its front page with her anguished description of how the young man had died in her arms after having an exploratory opfused to comment last night. | eration cancelled three times.

She said he had first com-plained of stomach pains twoand-a-half months ago and had been referred to a consultant three weeks later. There was no bed available and be was finally admitted to hospital a week last Thesday. By then the cancer had spread too far and he died two days later in her arms.

Jennifer's ear furore

There had been no doctor available to notify his relatives, and she had been forced to telephone his parents to tell them. She said she did not have the heart to tell his girlfriend. "His death had upset every-

one ... most of us think that if he had been admitted straight away he might have been able to have chemotherapy," she told the newspaper.

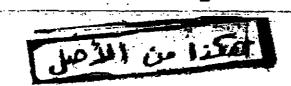
Yesterday the Liberal Democrats published a statement from the nurse saying she had "decided to do something pos-itive about it", by switching to the party after being a long-term Labour voter.

"The sad story I told is not unique. There are similar stories to be told in hospitals all over Britain. That can't be right. I shall put my trust in Paddy Ashdown and his party to make the difference for the NHS," the statement said.

Mr Ashdown defended the move against charges of "shroud-waving" at a gathering in Scotland, although his campaign manager. Lord Holme, said the young man's family had not been contacted. "We are not talking about the personal details of a tragedy. This is not Jennifer's ear, this is about a single person's cry for help from inside

the NHS," he said. During the 1992 election. Labour published details of the problems suffered by a little girl called Jennifer while she was waiting for an ear operation.

The move backfired hadly when family members criticised the party for using her case as



HOW 26 APRIL 1997

Michael Streeter finds favour for John Major among the Redditch young

Many first-time voters will sup-port the Conservatives on 1 May accepts that Tony Blair per-sonally performs well but thinks because they feel Britain is "doing all right" under the current government, according to The Independent's young peo-ple's group in the marginal seat

The lack of raw ideological conflict in the election - as op-posed to bitter rows over details -has left many in the group feeling there is no need for change for change's sake at a time of growing prosperity for many of

None of the main political parties appears to have enthused the first-timers, though Tony Blair comes out as a better communicator with the young. As with older groups, there is concern over Europe and some support for the clear-cut policy of the Referendum Party compared with the wait-and-see approach

Lit's like Tom and Jerry; one party says one thing, one says another – and so it goes on?

of the Conservatives and new Labour. There is also dismay in what they see as sterile and negative campaigning.
Alice Melvin, 21, who works

for a bookmaker, believes the Conservatives have "put the country back on its feet" and thinks they should be allowed to continue. "The country is doing all right as it is and a change now might be quite bad." She is mostly concerned about the National Health Service and law Jetry. "One party says one thing." and order – a common theme and then one party says anoth-among the first-time voters – as er, and so it goes on." He probwell as the environment.

Luke Davis, 18, a student at the North East Worcester Colbut says both main parties have

They are the stuff that adver-

Cosy Couples, New Beginnings,

The most prevalent are the

Terraced Start-ups - white-col-

lar workers living in their first

homes as owner-occupiers, who

spend their income on foreign

and Upward Bound.

Kim Sengupta

there could be an old-new Labour split if the party were to

gain power. Michelle Oldfield, 18, a pupil of Arrow Vale High School in Redditch, which was visited by Tony Blair earlier in the campaign, said that after meeting the Labour leader she had considered voting for him, but now will vote Conservative on 1 May. "I think I will be voting in line with my family - we seem to be doing quite well as a family. The majority of my friends are voting Conservative."

The campaign has not im pressed her. "It just seems as if everyone is putting everyone else's policies down.'

Fellow pupil Sarah Cox, 18, finds much of the debate between the parties "silly". For her the main concern is Europe, and she will support the Referendum Party "so we can have a referendum now". "I like the pound coins, it's nice to be different."

Sales-office administrator Ian Wright, 19, may also vote for Sir James Goldsmith's party, believing the country should either be fully in or out of Europe. "I'm worned about us sitting on the edge. For me it's all or nothing." A Labour government would be a "leap in the dark" honesty of many Liberal Democrat policies, he did not believe they could win.

However, Labour has won a number of converts among young voters. Mark Coley, 18, a pupil at Arrow Vale, thinks the country needs change and that Tony Blair speaks to the whole country. "I think John Major is only speaking to half the nation," he said.

Richard Watson, 19, a university student, said the main parties were behaving like the cartoon characters Tom and ably won't vote, because he says

nothing has "grabbed" him. Sixth-former Andrew Davies. lege, considered voting Labour 19, will not vote either, but not because he doesn't care. "It's performed equally badly in the not apathy, I'm making a rea-election and concludes it's bet-soned decision not to vote. All ter the devil you know", the mantra of many Tory voters. He this bickering is just childish. They don't deserve my vote."

travel, pubs, car-maintenance, and exercise. The majority are

impressed by Tony Blair and are

Tory hopes lie with the Soaps and Satellites. They tend to get what news and entertainment

they want from television. They

families living in terraced

homes - are almost equally split between Labour and the

The Cosy Couples - those in double-moome households, and

the New Beginnings - people on the first rung of the career lad-

der, who are renting while wait-

ing to buy their first homes - are

Democrats, or fringe parties, but

the majority appear to be po-

litically inactive, and thus an

untapped pool of voters.

foung voters in the key marginals

They may vote for the Liberal

the least represented.

likely to vote for Labour.

Cosy couples who may hold sway



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Council slip puts estate on lunatic fringe

Kim Sengupta

Residents of a housing estate have been disenfranchised from next Thursday's poll owing to a blunder by officials.

While the rest of the electorate exercis es its right to decide who governs Britain, honseholders at Cavendish Place, in Evesham, Worcestershire, will have the sa

voting status as lunatics, the Royal Family, peers and criminals in prison.

The number of people who have lost their polling right is in dispute. According to residents, most of the 50 properties in the private development have been missed out.

Wychavon District Council says some of the based balders any sote of the based balders. householders can vote elsewhere.

In a mix-up, the council apparently de-cided Cavendish Place Estate did not exist, so neither did the people. This did not stop them from cashing cheques for council tax of up to £1,000 per property.

The estate, with houses costing aro £150,000, had been in existence since spring last year and between last September and October residents should have re-

ceived forms for electoral rolls. None of this happened at Cavendish phoned the council, he was sent a form, but this did not lead to officials remembering the other 49 homes.

Graham and Sue Meacham discovered neither of them had the vote last Tuesday, barring them from taking part in both the national and local elections on the same day. Mrs Meacham, 36, said: "I called the local council straight away, but they said it was too late to do anything."

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tising and marketing men's dreams are made of. And now it seems they will be deciding who governs Britain for the next

n Ar

The most crucial marginal constituencies will be decided on Thursday by the nation's youngest voters, according to a youngest voters, according to a new survey. The study, based on the 16 most marginal seats, the 16 most marginal seats, the 16 most marginal seats, claims to be the first into the make-up of the voters who would hold the balance of power.

And, warns the marketing Conservatives. firm Claritas, aspiring MPs in these constituencies would ignore six key groups at their per-il: Terraced Start-ups, Soaps and Satellites, Backyard Gossips,

ECH OPEN Singles wall) by in Tabara IC: g (Rus) by) Sanche: [Fri beat F Roig (Sp (Sp) by I, Pacs (Ind

baky (Slovak) 6 dio (Sp) 3-6 6 dio (

Warriors muster to fight the Taliban

James Fergusson tracks down one of Afghanistan's leading mujahedin

Bala Morghab, Afghanistan — At first sight the Morghab Val-ley in north-west Afghanistan seems a blessed place. The fields are carpeted in poppies: sheep and horses graze togeth-er in peace and men are out

Ch The Siles Siles Siles

all soldiers, seeking to supple-ment their meagre front-line ra-tions; and the villages nestling idyllically on the valley floor are all empty, their Pashtun residents either having fled or been

trapping quall with nets.
On closer inspection, however, the grazing horses turn out to be the mounts of an Uzbek militia who captured Kabul seven months ago, and a flimcavalry unit: the quail netters are



sy alliance of mujahedin commanders and communists.

There has been little fighting since the winter, when the Tal-

with the melting of the snows, the two sides have been dancing around each other, testing each other's defences in expectation of the battle to come.

start than in the Morghab Valley, where Ismail Khan, a legend in the struggle against the Russian invaders in the 1980s, is busy preparing a counter-attack. Khan, 49, a

man with shrewd, twinkling eyes and a snowy white beard, was onsted from the governorship of the key western province

of Herat two years ago. This week, in his first inter-

to take it back, with or without the support of General Abdul Rashid Dostam, the former deputy defence minister who has emerged as the main player in the northern alliance.

ning to tell on the Taliban, " he said at his headquarters, a ruined farmhouse near Bala Morghab. "Heratis are enlightened, good people, different from the rest of the country. They will rise and support us as we advance. Dostam's support is not essential."

personnel landmines. He is also thought to have two bases in prospects of a two-pronged attack on Herat.

Much of his talk is bravado, but his soldiers are evidently intensely loyal, and driven by the pain of dispossession. "Three hundred of my boys have vowed to fight the Talibs with their last drop of blood," he says, before explaining the Koranic concept of amanat: "Those that die here will be buried where they fall, but later we will disinter them and take them to Herat."

Dostam's troops, by contrast,

view for six months, he vowed

"Internal pressure is begin-

There may be another reason for his confidence, in the shape of military support from Iran, sworn enemies of the Taliban. Khan denies this support exists, even though the helicopter that ferried me to the front-line meeting was loaded with Iranian-made anti-tank and anti Iran, east of Meshed, raising the

"The oil companies gambled

Stopped in their tracks: Taliban soldiers riding a tank captured from their communist and mujahedin foes near Kabul. There has been a luli in the fighting during the winter, but the next arena of conflict is likely to be the Morghab Valley Photograph: AP



are taken back to their home provinces to be buried. They are also noticeably less well-disci-

Like most Afghans, Ismail Khan blames his country's troubles on foreign intervention. The Taliban revolution, he be-lieves, is less to do with religious fervour than with the profits to be made from the vast reserves of natural gas in Turkmenistan. a few miles to the north.

The pipeline that will take this gas to market in the industrial world has yet to be built, although one possible route is through Afghanistan; any such pipeline must necessarily pass through Herat province. He is convinced that Pakistan's support for the Taliban is based on the belief that only the Taliban can provide the security necessary for a pipeline.

Three years ago I met with the Taliban and Benazir Bhutto in Turkmenistan and assured them that I could provide security. The Taliban agreed not to take Herat, but then the US ambassador in Islamabad paid them a visit and they changed their minds." The front runner for the pipeline contract is Unocal, a Texas-based compa-

badly when they backed the Taliban. If they send the pipeline through Herat they will have to build a checkpoint at every metre, otherwise we will

significant shorts

21 killed as Algerian rebels blast train

Twenty-one people were killed and 20 wounded when a homemade bomb exploded by a train passing through a station near Algiers, security forces said. The official news agency, quoting a security-forces statement, said the explosion occurred when a passenger train was passing near Oued El Kerma railway at 8am yesterday. It described the blast as "a criminal act", which usually refers to attacks by Islamist rebels. Reuters - Paris

Vote test for Winnie Mandela

President Nelson Mandela's former wife. Winnie, faces a leadership challenge at the conference of the ANC Women's League. Known as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela since her divorce, the Women's League president was expected to seek re-election against the Health Minister. Nkosazana Zuma, and the league deputy president,

Thord: Modies AP - Rustenburg

Suu Kyi welcomes US embargo

The Burmese opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, praised the US for standing by its convictions and imposing sanctions on Burma because of Rangoon's rights record. The Nobel Peace laureate said President Bill Clinton and Congress should have a clear conscience that they made the right decision in banning new investment in the country.

Gorbachev mourns old friend

A weeping Mikhail Gorbachev paid homage to his old friend Zdenek Mlynar, a former Czechoslovak hardline Communist who became a dissident after the 1968 Prague Spring. Mlynar died on 15 April of lung cancer in a Vienna hospital, aged 66. Mr Gorbachev, last president of the Soviet Union, met Mlynar while studying law in Moscow between 1951 and 1954.

Rebels 'denied proper burial'

Relatives said the Peruvian authorities were not allowing a proper burial for the 14 hostage-takers killed in Tuesday's commando assault on the Japanese ambassador's residence and had not let kin see their dead. The claims came amid reports that some rebels were killed after

Lining up with the terrorists

Angered by Israel and the US, the Arab world's most prominent poet announced: "We are ... in favour of terrorism." In a poem by that title, published by the international newspaper al-Hayar, Nizar Qabbani, a Syrian, echoed increasing Arab frustration at the way Israeli and American politicians deny Palestinians the right to resist occupation.

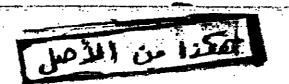
Grisly find at Dutch airport

Seven skulls and a baby's mummified corpse were found at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport. They were discovered during a routine drugs check. Reuters - Amsterdam

UN condemns Har Homa drive

A special UN General Assembly session demanded an immediate halt to construction by Israel of the Har Homa settlement in east Jerusalem.

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Survivors tell of Oklahoma bomb horror

52 • THE INDIANT

Stopped in their franches Laliban anddiers riding a lag s appared from their

generalistics and numberdin foes

during the winter the nest arena of

conflict is likely to the the Mornhab Vale

> From the moment Cynthia Kliver got upon 19 April 1995, it vas "just aregular day", the Ollahoma lavyer said yesterday. At a water board hearing that opined at 9an where a farmer watereking rights to sell bottled water from his land, her secretaryhad just urned on the tape, as usual. "In the part to these proas usual. "In regard to these pro-ceedings," M. Klaver, presiding, was heard saying, "there are four elements for which I have to re-ceive information..."

Then there is a boom of noise and static. In the thirdfloor office across the street from the Alfred Murrah building, shouts and screams and then distant irens are heard. "Everybody, let's get out of here," Ms Klaver calls out. "Watch the lights!"

The ceiling bad fallen in,

she told juror yesterday. Cables and wires we'e everywhere and the electricity was still on.

The tape was played to jurors in the trial of limothy McVeigh, accused of the Oklahoma bombing. "I hought the whole building was coming down on us," she said. "I didn't see there was any way we were going to get out."

Prosecutors used the tape to set the stage for their case, af-ter the defence concluded its

6 I thought the whole building was coming down on us. I didn't see any way we'd get out 🤊

own opening statement on

Thursday afternoon. For months, Mr McVeigh's legal team has said suggestions that a wider conspiracy was involved in the bombing, from the American far-right fringe to a German neo-Nazi, with hints of bomb parts supplied by the IRA. But there was no mention of that when defence lawyer Stephen Jones stepped to the

Instead, he spoke of mistak en identity and flimsy forensic evidence. He returned repeat edly to eye witnesses describing a second man, olive skinned and shorter than Mr McVeigh. It was the elusive "John Doe number two", declared non-existent by federal agents after one of the biggest manhunts in history.

ure who rented the Ryder truck. His fingerprints were not on the rental lease. Nor was it he who took a delivery of Chinese food at the local Dreamland motel.

The nitrates on him detected in forensic tests were found in guns and ammunition, Mr Jones said. "If Tim McVeigh built the bomb and put it in the truck, our proof would be that his fingernails, his nostrils, his hair, his clothing, his car, his shoes, his socks would have it all over them. They don't."

to show Mr McVeigh believed blood should be spilt in the name of "liberty", Mr Jones de-scribed his client as a "political animal". "His politics were open and known to anyone that spent any time with him, he said. His case, he said, would establish "not a reasonable doubt, but that my client is



leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna party at their third annual convention in the country's capital, Colombo

Chemical

Mary Dejevsky Washington

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ist train

President Bill Clinton was savouring his victory yesterday after the Senate, which has a ratification of a global ban on chemical weapons by an unexpectedly comfortable margin, just five days before the treaty

takes effect worldwide. The vote, which was seen as a test of the President's authority, was hailed as opening the possibility of further bipar-

tisan co-operation in Congress. In the week between the announcement of the Senate debate on the chemical weapons convention and the actual debate, Mr Clinton made elaborate efforts to justify US accession to the treaty and meet some objections raised by its opponents. His final gambit was to write to the wavering Senate Republican leader, Trent Lott, promising that if the reaty turned out to be contrary to US security interests, or to foster rather than stem proliferation of chemical weapons, he would withdraw the United

That promise convinced Mr Lott to drop most of his objecions. The vote was 74 to 26, a majority of four more than the wo-thirds that was required.

embled senior military and political figures to defend the treaty from the security and foreign policy perspectives. On through the debate, the Senate went into a rare closed session to hear information about in-

The ground had additionally been prepared by the Secre-tary of State, Madeleine Albright, who travelled the US, trying to win over sceptical senators and public opinion.

Republican opponents of the treaty, such as Mr Lott, praised Mr Clinton for agreeing to toughen the resolution that accompanied the text of the treaty. Afterwards, they were able to claim it was these assurances of safeguards for US security that had convinced them. Others, however, noted that the resolution was a secondary document and that if any conflict arose in future between the treaty text and the resolu tion, the treaty text would be the one considered legally binding

the hope that the budget, which is the subject of much behind the scenes bargaining, might ny and stalemate that have marked the process in the past.

weapon vote aids Clinton BUDING NORTH SEA FERRIES

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Armageddon no pull for tourists

be the death of mankind. But politics looks like being the death of Armageddon. Coach-loads used to flock to visit the Israeli site of Megiddo, at-tracted by the whiff of biblical apocalypse. Now the real threat of a more local apocalypse is

keeping them away. Very few visitors are coming because of the political situation," says the ticket seller at the nurance to great mound at Megiddo, made up of the ruins of 20 ancient cities which once rose above the plain of Jezreel.

Here, according to the Book f Revelations, is to be the site of Armageddon, the last, all-consuming battle of mankind. And they gathered them to sether to the place called in He-

Surely tourists intending to pme to northern Israel to witness the apocalypse - with the predicted earthquakes, plagues, frantic hailstones and the sea turning into blood - should

not be put off by television pic tures of stone-throwing and

Indeed, with the end of the second millennium imminent, Israeli tourist authorities were boping for an influx of visitors the End of Days. The Israeli staff at Megiddo are happy to use the advertising potential of the belief in Armageddon.

If St John was right about Armageddon, Megiddo is the place from which to see it. Built 6,000 years ago, it stands at the entrance to a pass in the Carmel hills, through which once passed the ancient trade route between Egypt and Mesopotamia. In 1468BC, the Egyptian pharaoh, Tuthmose III, fought a chariot battle in the flatland around the fortress.

In fact, Megiddo may soon suffer a cruel, though less apocalyptic fate, than that mentioned in Revelations. Local authorities are contemplating building prayer grottoes on the and high-tech virtual reality fa-cilities for those who have come to see the end of the world.

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international

escapes. Spy chief falls foul of the West

Europe Editor

Romania's intelligence agency yesterday blamed domestic and foreign pressure groups for the resignation of the man who had run the service since the anti-Communist revolution of 1989. A spokesman said that Virgil Magureanu, who took part in the overthrow of the Ceausescu dictatorship, had offered his resignation to President Emil Constantinescu last Thursday in the wake of "pressure from groups in Romania and abroad".

Bucharest newspapers said that Western countries might have signalled to the Romanian government that Mr Magure-

anu's departure would improve Romania's chances of joining Nato in the alliance's first wave of enlargement in 1999. As a former officer in the Securitate. the Communist-era predecessor of his own Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI), Mr Magureanu, 56, might not have been an acceptable figure to

Nato, the papers suggested. When asked on Bucharest radio whether there was any truth to these reports, the spy chief's "Probably, yes." However, he defended the SRL, which was set up in 1990 by the former president, Ion Iliescu, as an institution that respected democracy

ber of the self-styled jury that condemned the dictators Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu to death on Christmas Day 1989. Despite coming under attack for supposedly allowing Securitate methods to persist in the SRI, he kept his job while all other leading participants in the 1989

revolution fell from grace. Before last November's elections, in which Romania's liberal opposition came to power for the first time since 1989. Mr Magureanu said that he intended to resign regardless of the vote's outcome. However, it remains possible that there is more to his announcement this week than meets the eye.

handed in his resignation, the SRI publicly expressed fury at nalıd National, for publishing an article by a former Securitate boss and defector to the West, Ion Pacepa. This article, originally published in the Washington Times, accused Mr fagureanu and the SRI of

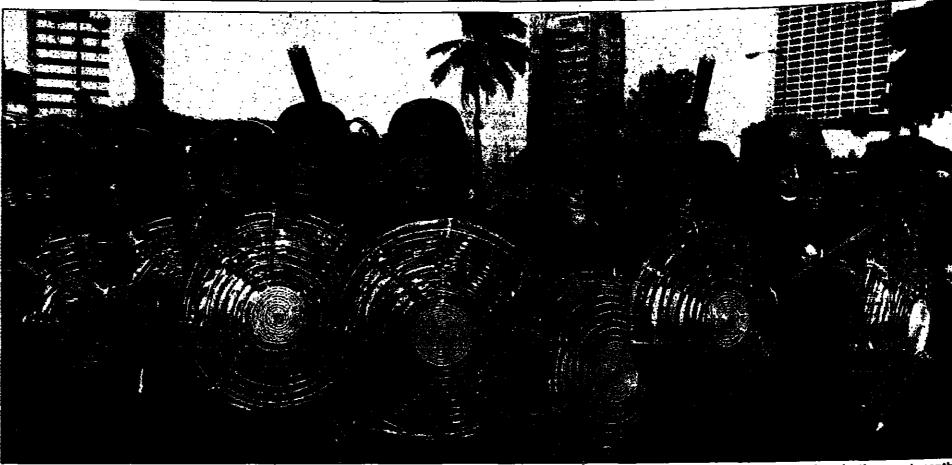
abusing their power and undermining democracy The SRI rejected Mr Pacepa's accusations and pointed out that he had loyally served Ceansescu as head of Roman-. ian foreign espionage for many years before his defection. Mr Pacepa is perhaps best known

Just three days before he oirs, Red Horizons, which portray Ceausescu's Romania as an almost surreal world of corruption, depravity and violence. The accuracy of Pacepa's

book has since come under question. However, his knowledge of security matters lends more weight to his account of what was going on in the SRI under Mr Magureanu. Before last November's elec-

tions Western governments were unhappy with the degree of democratic change in Romania. Since then, relations have warmed, but perhaps not enough to guarantee Romanian entry into Nato in the first wave - with or without Mr





Inhuman shield: An anti-riot squad taking part in the last of a series of exercises designed to safeguard the main business district in Jakarta, during elections next month; Indonesian leaders called for a peaceful run-up to the polls following weeks of violence between rival political factions in the Central Java province

Photograph: AFP

Tung learns the Chairman Mao strut

head Hong Kong's first post-colonial government, tells a great deal.

When he was appointed at the end of last year Mr Tung was very much an avuncular uncle-figure, often dressed modestly in a cardigan and often seen listening with head bowed in humble

and attentive mode.

Is this the same Mr Tung who is still smiling but, especially when attending meetings in China, is transformed into a finger-wagging and strutting official?
"He even walks just like a Chinese official," said a Chinese journalist. "They all have their hands clasped behind their backs because Chairman Mao

used to walk that way."

Body language aside, the millionaire former shipping magnate is beginning to sound far more like a Chinese government. ernment official than a local politician. In his earliest speeches as chief executive-designate, Mr Tung stressed that his priorities were "housing, education, welfare for the elderly, industrial development and economic vibrancy". However, he has spent the greater part of the last few months working on

der laws. Mr Tung has become more extreme in justifying his actions. Speaking last week he said that the territory was "extremely vulnerable to external forces" and therefore needed of social order as Western society be-

But it has proved impossible to get render social order."

Mr Tung's aides to provide instances

These dire warning of this supposed vulnerability or cite examples where "external forces" (a phrase frequently used by Chinese of uppermost in Mr Tung's mind. They are ficials) have intervened to create in- not persuaded that their new leader's stability in Hong Kong.

If body language tells a story, the body language of Tung Chee-hwa, who will Hong Kong's boss is singing Peking's tune, writes **Stephen Vines**



changes to public order and human rights laws, reflecting China's overriding concern about political control in

Hong Kong.

As criticism has mounted of his plans
to reintroduce old colonial public oring in the United States, appears to
have been somewhat shaken by the exhave been somewhat shaken by the exto ensure "sufficient safeguards in our came more permissive ... I do not want system to maintain law and order at all to see a Hong Kong which is permissive to the point where we start to sur-

These dire warnings have left local people scratching their heads, trying to identify the problem which is clearly

people. An opinion poll published a couple of weeks ago recorded 45 per cent of those questioned saying they had "less trost" in Mr Tung's determination to safeguard Hong Kong's interests. This compares with 30 per cent giving this answer when the question was asked in February.

Mr Tung has also caused dismay by insisting that political parties should not be allowed to receive foreign donations, nor have contacts overseas. When he admitted that he gave £50,000 to the Conservative 1992 general election campaign fund, he provoked further confusion by saying this was why he did not want to see the same sort of thing priorities are those of the Hong Kong happening in Hong Kong

Martin Lee, leader of the Democ-political participation. ratic Party, says that on every single isflect local views.

a reputation for bluntly articulating a pro-Peking line, sees Mr Tung's posj-

In his view the problem is that the Western media refuse to recognise that of his choices was vetoed because of Mr Thing enjoys a considerable degree of public support precisely because he a lot to do with the natural integrity he move.

projects," according to Mr Castro. "He comes across enormously well in

Indeed one of Mr Tung's more frequently stated themes is that of pride in Chinese values, "We need," he said, "to renew our commitment to the traditional Chinese virtues of modesty, hard work, persistence, magnanimity to focs, lowalty to friends, respect for seniors, emphasis on obligations rather than individual rights, and the willingness to sacrifice one's interest for the common

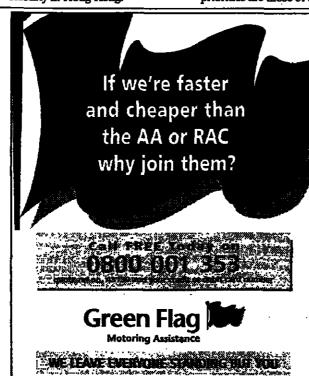
It would be wrong to underestimate the impact of remarks such as these. As Hong Kong finally ends the era of colonial rule, there is a strong feeling that the majority Chinese population needs to reaffirm its Chinese identity. There is considerable pride in finally being led by someone who speaks the same language and looks the same as the rest of the population.

At the same time Hong Kong people have developed a sophisticated appreciation of political affairs. Michael DeGolyer, director of the Hong Kong Transition Project, which tracks views about the hand-over of power, says that. contrary to prevailing myths, he has yet Photograph: Reuters to come across another society in which there is such a high degree of

This means that although Hon sue of importance to maintaining Kong people are proud to have a Chi Hong Kong's autonomy, Mr Tung has nese leader, they are not prepared to toed the Chinese line rather than renese leader, they are not prepared to fully to see whether he will be a leader Alan Castro, a local columnist with of Hong Kong or a conduit for Pekin; reputation for bluntly articulating a It is not even clear whether Mr Tung

was his own man when it came to selecting members of his cabinet. Some

It is far too early to deliver a verexpresses views which reflect the pre-dict on Mr Tung's performance but it vailing Chinese culture. "The rapport is clear that his honeymoon has Mr Ting enjoys among his people has given way to critical scrutiny of every





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Vest' Mobutu's old rival outflanked by rebels

HE INDEPENDENT

Time may be running out for Zaire's ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko, but it is running out faster still for his country's legal opposition movement.

As tebels close in from the east and the peace talks in South Africa are posiponed once again, diplomats say the opportanities are dwindling for followers of the veteran opposition léader. Etienne Tshisekedi, to grab a meaningful stake in post-Mobutii Zaire. After two decades of sparring with Mr Mobutu, the former prime minister risks losing out to the rebel leader Laurent Kabila, who has seized half the country and is promising to depose Mr Mobutu by force if needed.

Mr Tshisekedi's supporters in the Democratic Union for Social Progress (UDPS) say if Mr Kabila does take power, democracy will have been beaten by force. Some still claim, usually in private, that Mr Kabila is a foreign stooge backed by ethnic Tutsis from Rwanda and Burundi and their allies in Uganda. If he takes over, they say, Zaire will be run by another Mobutu with a different name.

If Mr Tshisekedi does fall at the last fence, his critics will say he only has himself to blame. They claim be has never been able to see beyond the events of 1991, when a largely self-selected gathering of the people called the National Sovereign Convention elected him head of

an interim government. The Convention and its interim government were supposed to prepare the way lowards democracy, a transition forced on Mr Mobutu by the

mark to take

100

ing in Kinshasa as a pretext to fire Mr Tshisekedi and replace the Convention with another

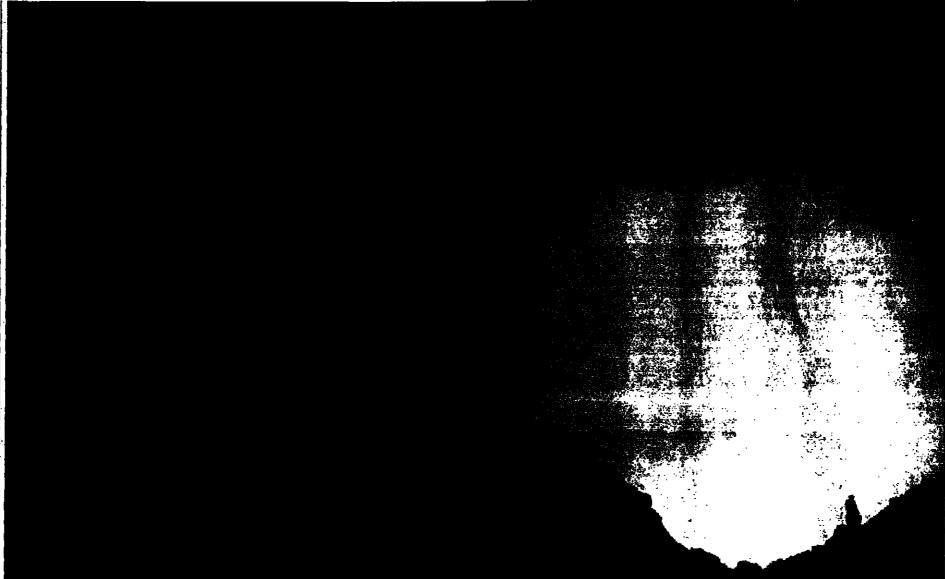
This quickly became a talking shop, where dozens of tiny parties were left free to squab-ble over the future of Zaire's democracy while Mr Mobuta and got on with plundering the

In recent months, Mr Kabila's victories in the east appeared to weaken Mr Mobutu and strengthen parliament. Three weeks ago it nominated Mr Tshisekedi to resume his post as Prime Minister, believing he had the credibility to negotiate an end to the war. When Mr Tshisekedi announced that he was dissolving parliament and going back to the 1991 constitution, Mr Mobutu sacked .him again, replacing him with military hardliner, General Lukulia Bolongo.

The stage seemed set for an upsurge in mass democratic action, but in the end, only a few thousand people, mainly students and the well-heeled political classes, demonstrated in Mr Tshisekedi's support. One diplomat said that while Mr Tshisekedi may have been imprisoned twice by Mr Mobutu,

he had been a close supporter. Meanwhile, in eastern Zaire UN agencies mounted an aerial search for 80,000 Rwandan refugees and accused Mr Kahila's rebels of trying to achieve a "final solution" by condemning them to death.

The rebels said the former Rwandan Hutu troops and milihamen were evacuated from Kasese camp, 15 miles south of Kisangani. "Eighty thousand people are condemned to a slow and cruel death. The expression 'final solution' is not exused an outbreak of mass loot- Programme spokeswoman. I mous - in other words not of the anti-Vietnam movement. hotels.



Georgian drama: The sun setting between the 13th-century Metekhi castle near Tbilisi and the monument to the city's founder, Vahtang Gongasalli

oirit of Woodstock distilled for theme park

David Usborne New York

Fancy a spin on Bob's Big Dipper? (Dylan, that is). A night at the Vanotel (Morrison), perhaps? If you want, you can get suites with authentic mud. Or how about a ride back in time on the Joni Express (Mitchell), destination 1969?

Welcome to Woodstock, the theme park. It does not exist. vet, but if businessman Alan Gerry has his way, it may no.

Disney World dimensions. What Mr Gerry, a cable

television mogul, says he has in mind is a pack that will attempt to recapture the counterculture spirit of the famed Woodstock music festival, that was attended by 40,000 people on open farmland in southern New York State 28 years ago.

That Woodstock occupies a special place in the American soul is unarguable. The festival featured virtually every leading rock band of the 1960s be a long time coming. and has since come to repre-He promises, though, that it sent the apotheosis of everywill not be a "honky-tonk" af- thing that was liberal about the

Even now, each August anniversary attracts scores of pilgrims, most of them onetime hippies, to Woodstock.

Three years ago, a 25th anniversary concert was staged there also. Some remember the music, some the spirit of communality and some the conditions at the concert mud, mud and no sanitation.

Mr Gerry, who has bought the original site and a thousand acres around it, is uncertain what the park will offer. Possibilities. however. include train rides, reenactments, concert venues, multiple-screen cinemas and theme

"I want the site to exist in perpetuity," he said, "so generations will be able to come there and stand and experience what earlier generations experienced without having to get into a bonky-tonk situ

Reactions of those who were at the original Woodstock have so far been mixed. "It sounds pretty hokey to make a theme park out of our vouth." commented one original concert-goer.

Officials of the surrounding county, however, are delighted. For them, a Woodstock



theme park will offer a taste of the Woodstock experience

Singer's lament for the Left Bank strikes a false note

They came to take away the corner grocer's and the intellectuals and artists said nothing. They took away the open-air. market and the intellectuals said nothing. They banished the poor people and the immigrants to the suburbs and the intellectuals said little. They took away the Raoul Vidal record shop and the intellectuals grumbled slightly. Then they took away Le Divan, their favourite book shop, and the intellectuals and artists organised a protest movement. Or rather, in the finest traditions of French intellectuals, they had a split and started two protest movements.

This was the week that some of France's best-known, and best dressed, artists and intellectuals took up arms to save their ancestral home, Saint-Germain-des-Prés, from an alien invasion.

For years, designer clothes shops, and exclusive boutiques, have been spreading across the river into the fashionable bohemian-literary Left Bank. Juliette Greco, the singer and actress, one of the few living links with Saint-Germain's great days in the 1950s, held a press conference on Tuesday to protest that enough was enough: she was starting a pressure group to save the neighpourpood. The next day another

pressure group, rejected by Ms Greco as too political, started up with the support of Jean-Paul Belmondo, Charles Aznavour and Catherine Deneuve. If you sit outside the Café de Flore, the spiritual epicentre of Saint-Germain, and pay £5 for a glass of beer, you may wonder what the fuss is about. Or rather why it did not begin years ago.
On the other side of the



with the good old days

Boulevard, you see the building site where a Giorgio Armani fashion emporium is to be; the New Man boutique; a Belgian mussels-and-chips restaurant and Barclays Bank. On the terrace of the Café, where

PARIS DAYS

Sartre and de Beauvoir traded philosophical barbs, the dominant language is English: the main topic of intellectual conversation is shopping.
In truth, Saint-Germain-des-

Prés stopped being a "fabulous literary crucible", as Ms Greco describes it, three decades ago. Sartre emigrated back to Montparnasse in the early 1960s. Its transformation into a snob-fashionable area is symbolised as much by the presence of those star names, paying star prices for their apartments, as by the invasion

of famous labels. But I have some sympathy for Ms Greco and the others. When I lived in Paris in the late 1970s. Saint-Germain-des-Prés still had a battered charm, full of small book and record stores

and tiny antique shops. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the landlords, with the City of Paris one of the worst offenders, doubled and trebled the rents and drove such places away. The Divan bookshop, a rabbit-warren of all that was classical, avant-garde or obscure, moved to the bourgeois 15th arrondissement last year. Its landlord, the Paris Town Hall, had demanded a rent

The revolt of the rich and famous echoes, or parodies, many of the complaints of poorer or middle-income ex-Parisians, who have been pushed out into the suburbs in the last 10 or 15 years. They say Paris has bea bazaar for the rich. They found themselves with their noses pressed to the window of their city, rarely able to join in the fun. So they moved out to the suburbs, where at least they

had space and a few trees. At the same time, Jacques Chirac, as Mayor of Paris, pursued a City of Westminster-style policy of encouraging the immigrant, the poor and troublesome to move beyond the Boulevard Périphérique into the concrete wastelands.

All in all, there has been a sharp gentrification of Paris in the last two decades. The poorer neighbourhoods, once scattered through the city, are now concentrated to the north and east. One of my favourite places used to be the Marais, the once aristocratic area east of the centre, which was just beginning to rise to gentility after three

spectability. In the 1970s, you could still find 17th-century town houses whose multiple courtyards had become sooty Dickensian agglomerations of tiny workshops, sewing bonnets mending bicycles or printing leaflets. Strolling through the

Marais is still fascinating: but it has now become a bastion of aggressive trendiness and the capital of Parisian gay It used to be possible to say that, unlike London, people

lived right in the centre of Paris. It is still largely true. But the historic heart of the city, the first arrondissement, around the Louvre and Les Halles, has become almost as lifeless, out of working hours, as the City of London. Its population has fallen from 30,000 to 18,000 in three decades: partly because of the destruction of Les Halles

and because of the deliberate Chiraquian policy to make it a business and office ghetto.

Perhaps, one should not protest too much. Paris remains, compared to London, compared to most big cities, a walkable, livable city, a low-rise city, a city with good and cheap public transport and, in most neighbourhoods, plentiful, specialist food shops. Some parts of Paris, such as the newly re-gilded dome of the Invalides look more splendid than they have for decades. But the city has, inevitably fallen victim to the late-20th-century banalisation and standardisation of

towns and cities everywhere. In Saint-Germain's case, instead of the tyranny of Bennetton and the Gap it is the tyranny of Armani and Christ-

John Lichfield



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Professor Leonard Forster

Leonard Forster was one of the Trinity Hall to read Modern best known and most distin- Languages. German studies guished German scholars of his generation, an internationally respected figure in German and Renaissance studies. He remembered as an undergradwas a comparatist, not in any institutionalised sense, but in the awareness that literatures Breul, little imagining that he and cultures interrelate and that little is to be gained by studying them in isolation.

By aptitude and inclination a splendid linguist, he was as much at home in Renaissance Italian and French, neo-Latin, Dutch, later Czech, as he was in German, the language and subject which he professed. Thus Forster was one of that significant generation of Baroque scholars who broke with the national approach, so much favoured by the German school between the wars, and set this branch of studies on an international footing.

Yet Forster was a Cambridge man through and through. After Marlborough, he came up to aware of its perils.

were then, if not in their infansubject they are today. Forster first Schröder professor, Karl was to be the fifth holder of that

His real mentor was Trevor Jones, and it is a measure of Forster's linguistic capacities that the two of them first planned the great (and alas unfinished) dictionary that Jones later tackled singlehanded. He once said that his failure to gain a First (having spent too much time on Italian) was the sole reason for his decision to embark on a German doctorate. German universities were, however, going through the rigours of political Gleichschaltung, and Forster, as a Lektor first at Leipzig, then

It was at Königsberg that he saw the eminent Renaissance turer in Cambridge and Fellow of Selwyn, the college to which ed out of office by the Nazis. In he maintained his loyalty for the relative security of Switzer- more than half a century, he land, from 1936 to 1938, he moved to the chair at Universtudied for the doctorate on Georg Weckherlin in England that he gained in 1938. In Basle, too, he met his wife, Jeanne, his companion and mainstay for nearly 60 years of happy mar-riage. Being the linguist he was, Forsier spoke Baseler

Düütsch like a native. The war years saw him as a naval officer, eventually with the rank of lieutenant-commander, not on the high seas but in that high-powered backwater, Bletchley Park, engaged in intelligence work the significance of which has emerged in Sir Harry Hinsley's and others' account of code-cracking and Enigma. Bletchley proved to be a forcing ground for German studies: from there, the experts swarmed out to fill university chairs. Forster was no exception.

sity College London. His tenure there, from 1950 to 1961, was without doubt the climax of his

career and a high point of teaching and research in Ger-man studies nationally. His inaugural lecture, The Temper of Seventeenth Century German Literature, remains to this day the finest short statement of the paradox of vanitas and Lebensfreude underlying that period. Many would wish that it might elsewhere. have been expanded into the His real triumph was the monograph we hoped he would write; but he preferred shorter

compass and briefer focus. In London, too, he gave those memorable lectures on modern German literature (clearifying his hearers by read-ing aloud the newly published Todesfuge by Paul Celan) which attracted an audience from

well outside the confines of 1975, over which he presided,

Forster returned in 1961 to Cambridge to a somewhat muted triumph. He soon learnt, as have many before and since, that Cambridge can envelop and bind as well as offer scholarly satisfaction. German stud-ies nevertheless flourished during the period of his tenure of the chair. It is perhaps sig-nificant that his years as Schröder professor were also a time of visiting professorships, in Germany, in the Netherlands, in Canada and

presidency of the International Association for Germanic Studies (IVG) from 1970 to 1975, where his elegance, his urbanity, in short, his sheer style, prevailed in deliberations where entrenched opinions and ide-ologies might otherwise have raged. At the international con-ference held at Cambridge in

University College or the extreme opinions were lost in academic world. which he knew and loved so well. A nice personal touch was the creche which his wife Jeanne organised for the children of those attending. He was a well-known figure at the German centre for Renaissance studies, the Herzog August Library in Wolfenbuttel, later a kind of senior citizen in that international place of scholarship and letters.

Forster's studies on Petrarchism, on neo-stoicism, on the Faust legend, on 17th-century Anglo-German literary relations, might not sit easily with his interest in nonsense (but "significant" nonsense) poetry and in the most recent literature coming from the old Federal Republic. Yet it was part of his breadth, his sense of responsibility for the whole subject, the awareness, almost lost today, awareness, almost lost today, that a German scholar cannot (one son, two daughters); died confine himself to narrow com-

partments (or forget that he is studying texts by real authors). Who else but Forster could have produced that Penguin anthology, The Penguin Book of German Verse (1957), which is still an important source for students and laymen alike, with its range from the Hildebrandslied to Celan? Who else could have received a Festschrift called

From Wolfram and Petrarch to Goethe and Grass?

Leonard Wilson Forster, German scholar. born 30 March 1913; Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge 1938-50, 1961-97; University Lecturer in German, Cambridge Lecturer in German, Cantinuge University 1947-50, Schröder Professor of German 1961-79 (Emeritus); Professor of German, University College London 1950-61; President, International As-





It is difficult to place Fred Suven in any straightforward classification of Scottish artists. He worked simultaneously in the three areas of sculpture, painting and design.

A Fred Stiven "Box" is a remarkable art work; it could be

described as a "boxed relief". His boxes contained a form of three-dimensional still-life, exuding calm and order and a spiritual dimension. This could also be regarded as a form of landscape, focused on the tidal space of the shoreline. Looking carefully you could discern, in the carved wooden forms, the shapes of pebbles, seashells, driftwood and all manner of The boxes are exquisitely

crafted; their surfaces lovingly worked upon. Colour is used sparingly - occasionally a metal object adds tension. The forms are so interrelated that together they suggest the curve of a sand dune, a breaking wave and effects of wind and tide upon rock pools reflecting sunlight and shadow. They celebrate the artistry of the shipwright.

Stiven was one of Scotland's very few true modernist artists. He effectively resisted the repressive forces which have long bedevilled Scottish artists in their attempts to find recognition within the history of international 20th-century art. The

the opportunity to live or work outside Scotland makes his achievement as a fullblown modernist even more remarkable.

Like Ian Hamilton Finlay, Scotland's most famous contemporary artist, Stiven derived inspiration from the scafaring cultural heritage of the Scots. His father was a sailor. who regarded the shorelines of Fife as a place of homecoming. Stiven himself was born and bred close to the southern shorelines of the Firth of Forth. He made good use of the Design School of the Edinburgh College of Art, benefiting from the teaching of two quintes-sentially English artists, John Kingsley Cook and Leonard Rosoman. Stiven, with a fellow student, George Mackie, went on to be employed as a teacher at Gray's School of Art, in

In the Sixties Ainslie Yule, an outstanding Scottish sculptor, taught alongside Stiven in the special experimental General Course in Design, working along similar lines to artists in Bucharest. When, for the first time, in 1968 Romanian artists were able to exhibit in Britain, they were warmly welcomed in Aberdeen, and artists of the calibre of Paul Neagu, Ion Bitzan and Horea Bernea entered into fruitful dialogue with Stiven and Yule.

commitment to the interface between the worlds of art and science, confident that his art students would benefit from a deeper understanding of science. He collaborated with John Holloway, a lecturer in Chemistry at Aberdeen Uni-versity (now Professor of Chemistry at Leicester University), to create an exhibition they entitled "Integration". Together they wrote an introduction to the exhibition catalogue. The first paragraph has the ring of

a manifesto about it: a manifesto about it:

The eye rarely encounters any natural object of phenomenon which is visually displeasing. Each line of the grains in a wooden plank seems inevitable, and in perfect harmony with every other line. The variety of arrangements of strata in a cliff face is endless, and yet each layer seems to belong to its neighbours. The arrangement of a bird's feather, and the interrelation of forms in a cloud bank reveal similar tendencies. Even when the scientist's tools are used to examine the natural world beyond the examine the natural world beyond the realms of ordinary sight the same underlying harmony is revealed.

Together they built 41 "boxes" containing the exhibits, on a limited budget of £300 made available from the university. The boxes contained a wide variety of imagery ranging from a model of the structure of sodium chloride and a wasps' nest (cut away to show the construction of the honeycomb) to a reproduction of nd Yule.

Leonardo da Vinci's drawing
In 1968 Stiven also made a A Deluge, photographs of An-

tonio Gaudi's Sagrada Familia Cathedral and diagrams revealing the basic engineering structure in the ceilings of Gothic churches.

Throughout the Seventies Stiven participated in the De-marco Gallery's experimental Summer School and expeditions exploring the origins of Scot-land's cultural heritage. One of the highlights for students was to be made welcome by Fred and his wife, Jenny, in their

Aberdeenshire cottage at Wester Tillyshogle, close to the great prehistoric fortified settlement on the summit of the Hill of Echt, and the standing stone circle of "Sun Honey". The cottage was a total art work, and contained ample evidence of Stiven's extraordinary draughtsmanship and his work as a book designer and illustrator, typographer and printmaker. Stiven succeeded George

Mackie as Head of the Design School at Gray's School of Art in 1981. It was with great reluctance that he took early retirement due to a debilitating illness in 1987. Common sense, wisdom, and a wry sense of humour were the essence of his successful teaching methods. He leaves behind many artists who were privileged to know him as their teacher, including Will MacLean, who has achieved international recognition. Stiven's election to the Roy-

al Scottish Academy as an associate member and as a member of the Society of Industrial Artists reflected his capacity to focus his energies upon fine art whilst remaining dedicated to the task of educating his students to fulfil a useful role as designers in

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industry. Stiven's boxes were displayed as an integral part of an im-pressive collection of art held at Gray's School of Art. In 1976 his first one-man exhibition in London was held at Paul Neagu's Generative Arts Gallery. The following year his work was exhibited at the Galleria del Cavallino in Venice alongside the "cutting edge" of Scottish con-temporary artists, including Jack Knox, Ainslie Yule and Iain Patterson.

However, such was Stiven's humility that he did not seek fame or fortune; he was content to work steadily and quietly. gaining the respect of fellow artists. Just six weeks ago, he was eager to participate in the exhibition and conference on the theme of "Bridging the Gap between Art and Science planned for the 1997 Edinburgh Festival.

Richard Demarco

Frederic William Stiven, artist: born 25 April 1929; married 1951 Jennie Paton (two sons, two daughters); died Dundee 1 April 1997.

Charles Connolly

Charles Connolly was the only man in modern criminal history to survive being tried twice for the same murder.

He was accused in the Cameo case of 1949. The manager of the Cameo Cinema in gunman. Connolly was charged with being the lookout man (or who fled when he heard the shooting. Connolly denied it point blank. His alibi was that he had been at a church-hall hop taking part in a rumba

The case set records. In the course of a ramshackle inquiry, in English criminal history. But,

9,000 homes visited. After six months of floundering, the po-lice finally arrested their first suspect, a small-time Liverpool villain called George Kelly, and Liverpool and his assistant were charged him with murder. A shot dead in the course of a dazed Connolly found himself bungled robbery by a masked being marched into the city's Napoleonic bridewell in the middle of the night to be ac-"douse" in Liverpool-speak) cused as Kelly's accomplice. Connolly claimed he had been framed by a couple of low-life witnesses in cahoots with the police and insisted that he had never met Kelly in his life.

Theirs was then (in January

65,000 people were interviewed, after 13 days, the jury was 1,800 of them fingerprinted, stumped and couldn't reach a verdict. Retrials were ordered, but separately this time; Kelly - defended by Rose (later Mrs Justice) Heilbron KC, making history as the first woman to lead for the defence in a murder trial - was convicted and sentenced to death. Still protesting his innocence, Connolly faced a similar fate. He was rescued from the hangman only when he was persuaded literally on pain of death - to plead guilty to the lesser charge of robbery. Connolly's plea of not guilty to murder was accepted and he was jailed for 10

Released in 1956, Connolly

returned to Liverpool and van-might have had on Kelly's ished into obscurity. There he might have stayed, but for a chance encounter in 1990 at a club near Liverpool where he was working as a part-time bouncer. Hearing his story, a retired local businessman became convinced of Connolly's innocence and offered to help him clear his name. The resulting publicity, including a BBC radio play by Bill Morrison, Murder at the Cameo, broadcast in March 1995, stirred some interest. But Connolly never overcame the problem of having pleaded guilty, albeit to a lesser charge, in order to save his own neck, and he was haunted

unsuccessful appeal.

Charles Connolly was born in 1923, in Liverpool's old Chinatown. After school, he took a series of dead-end jobs before joining the Merchant Navv as a galley boy in 1939. In 1941, after a year ashore, he enlisted in the Royal Navy. Connolly's ships chased enemy submarines in the Indian Ocean and drew German artillery fire on D-Day. As an amateur boxer in the Navy, he took on 60 opponents and never lost a fight.

Indeed, Connolly characteristically led with his fists, and couldn't resist wading in if he saw a fight in the street. After the war, he ran up a couple of convictions for brawling, which was how he was known to the Liverpool police. In the late 1940s he took labouring jobs where he could, and filled the rest of his time drifting between the snooker rooms, dance-halls and milk-bars of Lime Street.

Connoily was at Armley Gaol in Leeds when George Kelly was hanged at Liverpool in March 1950. Connolly recalled the execution morning. The deputy governor, a Canadian, tapped me on the shoulder in the machine shop and said, You don't know how lucky you've been', and walked away. Just like that." Roger Wilkes Liverpool 19 April 1997.

Connolly: led with his fists

Charles Connolly: born Liverpool 18 May 1923; twice married (two sons, one daughter); died

Herbert Zipper, conductor, died Santa Monica, California 21 April, aged 92. Formed a secret tration camp to raise the spirits of other prisoners. Later held prisoner in Buchenwald and by the Japanese in Manila. When Manila was liberated in 1945, he reassembled the Manila Orchestra.

Gerald Piaget, watch-maker, died Areuse, Switzerland 17 April, aged 79. Co-founded Piaget watches with his father and three brothers in 1942, making watch parts in the winter and farming in the summer; their first watch was produced in 1948. Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Hardy-Roberts, soldier and administrator, died 9 April, aged 89. Superintendent of Middlesex Hospital 1946-67. Master of the Queen's Household 1967-73.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

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ABRAY HS

ABRAY Miriam (nee Nirenstein), deeply loved wife of Chimen, mother of Jack and Jenny, and grand-mother of Sasha, kolya, Rob. Tanya and Maia, died peacefully on 25 April after a lovag filness. Funeral on Sanday 27 April at 12.30pm at Jewish Reform Cemetery, Horsp Lane, London NW11. No flowers please.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

ALLEN: Guy and Natalia, 27 April 1957. With love on your Ruby Anniversary, from Tor, Didi and Andrew. Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

(Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam; should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 50L, telephoned to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 65 for a Memorial Square of the Canada Square of the Square are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra), OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, lunctions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Changing of the Guard Changing of the Guard
1003W The Huanch di Covalty Monajeet Ragme of spounts the Queer's Line finant at Horse
Gaurda, Ham. 14 Banalion the Rawal Registeral
of Wales moures the Queer's Ganard, of Benchngham Pater, 11 Alam, band provided by the fitch
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Guard at Horse Ganada, 11 Jon Lie Banalion Scotes
Guard at Horse Ganada, 11 Jon Lie Banalion Scotes
Guarda Mounts the Queen's Ganad, at Backingham Pater. [1 Julian, hand provided by the
Coldstream Guards.]

Forthcoming marriages Mr A. Whittell

The engagement is announced between Andrew, only son of Mr and Mrs Ian Whittell, of Horbury, Yorkshire, and Jane Alison, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Lumbard of Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Roger Buckley, High Court judge, 5% Miss Carol Burnett, comedienne, 61; The Marquess of Bute, racing driver, 39; Sir Edward Cazalet, High Court judge, 61; Mr Charlie Chester, comedian, 83; Mr David Coleman, sports commentator, 71; Mr Jack Douglas, actor and comedian, 70: Sir Gordon Downey, Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, 69: Mr Justin Gosling, for-mer Principal, St Edmund Hall, Ox-ford, 67: Professor Margaret Gowing, scientific historian, 76; Mr Stuart Hig-gins, Editor, the Sun, 41: Sir James Holt, medieval historian, 75; Sir Robin Jacob High Court judge, 56: Robin Jacob, High Court judge, 56; Muj-Gen Harry Knutton, former Muj-Gen Harry Knutton, former Director-General, London City and Guilds Institute, 76; Dr Anne McLaren, 200logist, 70; Professor Wilfrid Mellers, composer, 83; Sir Oliver Millar, former Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, 74; Professor Jack Morpurgo, Emeritus Professor of American Literature, Leeds University, 79; Mr Peter Schaufuss, ballet dancer, choreographer and producer, 47; Mr Derek Waring, ac-tor, 67; Mr Morris West, novelist, 81.

TOMORROW: Mile Anouk Aimée, actress, 65: Professor John Barron, Master, St Peter's College, Oxford, 63; Mr Christopher Battiscombe, diplomat, 57; Mr Pik Botha, former South African government minister, 65; Air Marshal Sir Charles

former Warden, Goldsmiths' College, 88; Mr Charles de Chassiron, am-bassador to Estonia, 49; The Most Rev Lord Eames, Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of All Ireland, 60; Miss Sheena Easton, singer, 38; Mr Michael Fish, weatherman, 53; The Marquess of Hartington, chairman, British Horseracing Board, 53; Sir Pe-ter Imbert, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, 64; The Right Rev Eric Kemp, Bishop of Chichester, 82; Mr Jack Klugman, actor, 76; Sir Harry Melville, former Principal, Queen Mary College. 89; Mr Igor Oistrakh, violinist, 66; Mr Richard Raiph, Governor of the Falkland Islands, 51; Mr Alan Reynolds, painter and printmaker, 71; The Hon Nicholas Serota, Director, the Tate Gallery, 51; Lord Taylor of Gryle, former chairman, Morgan Grenfell (Scotland), 85; Sir John Thomson, former diplomat, 70.

Anniversaries TODAY: Births: Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor, 121; Leonardo da Vinci, painter, sculptor and architect, 1452; David Hume, philosopher and historian, 1711; John James Audubon, naturalist and artist, 1785; Ferdinand-Victor Eugène Delacroix, painter, 1798; Harold Sidney Harmsworth, first Viscount Rothermere, newspaper publisher, 1868; Anita Loos, writer, 1893; Rudolf Hess, Nazi leader, 1894; John Grierson, documentary film-maker. 1898. Deather John Wilkes Booth, actor and assassin, shot while trying to escape 1865; Dame Cicely Courtneidge, actress, 1980; William "Count" Basie, jazz pianist and bandleader, 1984. On this day: the Duke of York (later King George VI) married Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (now Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother), 1923; German planes bombed Guernica in Spain during the Civil War, 1937; the Cubans invaded Pana-

ma, 1959; a revolt in the French army

failed, and the leaders were arrest ed, 1961; Tanganyika and Zanzibar united to form Tanzania, 1964; an accident at the Soviet nuclear power station at Chernobyl resulted in a massive nuclear leak, 1986. Today is the Feast Day of St Franca of Piacenza, St Paschasius Radbertus, St Peter of Braga, St Richarius or Riquier and St Stephen of Perm. TOMORROW: Births: Jean-

by the effect his change of plea

François Millet, painter, 1642; Edward Gibbon, historian, 1737; Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, author and women's rights champion, 1759; Samuel Finlay Breese Morse, inventor of the Morse Code, 1791; Co cil Day Lewis, poet and novelist, 1904. Deaths: Ferdinand Magellan, navigator, killed by Philippine natives 1521; Alexander Nikolaievich Scriabin, composer and planist, 1915; Flarold Hart Crane, poet, committed suicide 1932; Kwame Nkrumah, for-mer president of Ghana, 1972. On day: the London Zoological Gardens in Regent's Park opened, 1828; Christina Rossetti, aged 12, pro-duced her first book of poems, 1842; German troops occupied Athens, 1941; Britain recognised the state of Israel, 1950. Today is the Feast Day of St Anthimus of Nicomedia, St Asi cus or Tassach, Saints Castor and Stephen, St Floribert of Liège, St Maughold or Maccul, St Zita.

Lectures TODAY

TOMORROW

Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Braque's Transparent Perspectives

British Museum: Hilary Williams "Louis Haghe as a Lithographer Working with David Roberts" L15pm.

Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "A

History of Questionable Art",

A ST THE STATE OF THE STATE OF

at Southwark Cathedral. It was entitled "Seizing the Millennium" but its focus was entirely on the debt issue.

He is far from a lone voice. The Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales have in recent times made two powerful

Why is the Church so preoccupied by the issue of Third World Debt? On Thursday Desmond Tutu's successor as Archbish-

op of Cape Town, Njongonkulu Ndungane,

travelled to London to deliver an address

public demands for rapid progress towards a solution of the crisis which, though it is no longer a problem for international bankers, continues to afflict the daily lives of a billion of the world's poorest people. And on Wednesday the Catholic development agency, Cafod, strongly attacked the Government for not sending the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the spring meeting of the World Bank and the IMF. In the event, opponents managed to postpone an agreement to launch a debt relief programme which Britain had

It is the biblical principle of Jubilee which underlies the concern. When the Israelites arrived in their promised land they divided it not in accordance with their relative power but by casting lots. Laws recorded in Leviticus and Deuteronomy ordered that land could be sold by the impoverished but that the original owner had the right to redeem it whenever he could raise the price. And every 49 years - a sabbath of sabbath years which was given the as to how widely the Jubilee principle was name of Jubilee after the word yobel for the ram's horn blown to announce its arrival - the land had to be returned to the

family to which it originally belonged. As so often in the Old Testament the

faith **q**reason

Eternal debts grant unto them, O Lord

The new Archbishop of Cape Town travelled to London this week to berate the City. Paul Vallely reflects on the Church's passion for the issue

individual and the social, between the right to private ownership and the obligation to hold goods in trust and use them in a way which reflects the divine purpose.

of Third World debt.

Historically the attempt to create a balance between wealth creation and social justice failed. The gospel of prosperity celebrated in the Wisdom books, and then the rise of the Israeli monarchy, created a poverty gap which archeologists confirm. Excavations at Tirzah show 10th-century BC houses all of the same size and arrangement: by the eighth century the community had divided into the bigger and better-built houses of the rich and a quarter where poor houses huddled together. The shift produced the gross inequalities

the Prophets so vividly denounced. There is some debate among historians ever enforced but whatever the actual practice the principle towered, symbolic and educative, articulating the communal aspirations of the people and a vision of a future governed by the Covenant, Indeed aim was to strike a balance between the there are grounds for thinking that Jesus churches to say so,

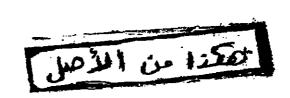
was referring to Jubilee when he began his ministry by announcing he had come to bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed and "to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour".

But how convincing are the prescriptions of an early long Age purplement.

tions of an early Iron Age rural community when addressing a problem of complex international finance on the eve of the 21st century? Today's global society may be enormously different but the Jubilee principles remain apt. There is a moral imperative on a debtor to repay, but the poor world has amply done that. Between 1980 and 1992 some \$1.66 trillion has been paid by the poor world to the rich. That is three times the amount borrowed. Yet thanks to the miracle of compound interest, and the constant new loans to pay the interest on the old ones, they still owe us \$1.3 trillion. It has become too big ever to repay. External debt has become eternal debt.

Meanwhile the others responsible for the situation - greedy oil sheikhs, reckless banks, irresponsible Western governments, avaricious arms dealers and corrupt Third World leaders - refuse to share the burden which falls on the shoulders of the poorest through cuts in health, education and food subsidies.

The system of Jubilee ensured that the poor did not become marginalised, alienated and disenfranchised from the rest of society. The same considerations must apply on a global scale today. The details must be a matter for experts. But the lesson of Jubilee is that self-righting mechanisms are a fundamental part of social justice. It must be a central concern of the



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Joe Public, the lie-detector in the street

ow is it that both John Major and Tony Blair sound more convincing when accusing the other of lying than they do when saying where they themselves stand? It has not been an edifying week of the election cam-paign, with words like "despicable" and "barefaced" traded, both sides shouting "Pants on fire!" in their best grown-up voices, and Paddy Ashdown, as ever, shaking his head like a pained and disapproving teacher surveying the unruly playground.

But would the Conservatives scrap the state pension? It sounds possible, when set against Peter Lilley's ambitious and complex plans for recasting the basis of pension provision by the middle of the next century. Would Labour put up taxes in an July Budget? It sounds plausible, notwithstanding Gordon Brown's patient explanation that there are no hidden spending plans to require such a thing. There is a directness and a simplicity about the charges which make them sound as if they - might - express some kind of truth, even if they are not borne out by the formal policy positions of the two

And it is, as Mr Major discovered yesterday, frustratingly difficult to rule out absolutely a hypothetical future decision. What if, he was asked, the Cabinet overruled him to abolish the state pension? "If anybody in my Cabinet actually prevailed in an argument, I would not only leave Downing Street, I would leave politics and I would call a general election," he replied, finding himself perched rather awk-wardly up a hypothetical gum tree.

Of course, it is grossly unfair to say that the Tories will abolish the state pension, when they want to replace it with a state guarantee of a pension of the same value. Mr Blair is playing with words. But, as our front page report confirms, he is not (quite) lying.

The Tories are scaremongering too. Mr Brown has to have a Budget in July in order to bring in his windfall tax (of as yet unknown size) on the privatised utilities, and to cut VAT on domestic gas and electricity from 8.5 to 5 per cent. To describe this an "emergency" Budget, as Tory politicians do, is dishonest, and all Labour's pledges are indeed paid for either by the windfall tax or by clearly-labelled savings elsewhere. But to speculate that Mr Brown might make other tax changes at the same time is fair speculation and has not been denied.

The dangers of this kind of exaggeration and name-calling are obvious. The voters are already cynical and alienated. As Mr Blair often points out, negative attacks tend to induce apathy and a "plague on all their houses" mentality. But let us not become sentimental about this. After all, despite letting it be known that he had "ordered an end to negative campaigning" early on in the hustings, there is no sign of High Moral Tony now.

Anyway, election campaigns should be aggressive rather than sanctimonious affairs. Accusing the other candidate of lying is as old as demo-



cracy. As Henry Mencken said: "Under democracy, one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule. Both commonly succeed, and are right." He could have added, but didn't, that one is usually at least a little less unfit than the other.

No doubt Pericles had a few shocking words about his opponents' policy on the price of slaves when Athenians cast their pebbles in the earliest democracy. The founding fathers of American democracy called each other much worse than liars. John Quincy Adams called Thomas Jefferson a "slur upon the moral government of the world". Disraeli and Gladstone insulted each other with more wit and imagination, but certainly with as much contempt as Major and Blair.

Everyone knows, even if they sometimes pretend to a more elevated discourse, that politicians "go negative" because it works. American political scientists have even conducted experiments to prove that voters are more likely to remember negative information than positive virtues. That is because we voters are sceptical about politicians, and always have been. And so we should continue to be. Scepticism is part of the essential armoury we need to try to defend our interests. And we need, in the age of mass communication, to find new ways of assessing the reliability of our would-be leaders.

That is why this campaign has been so dominated by the respective struggles of Mr Major and Mr Blair to appeal directly for the trust of the voters. All of politics nowadays is a search for sincerity, an attempt to construct authenticity in an age of mass communication. In the past 10 years, all politicians have taken to the "sincerity machine", or glass tele-prompter. In this campaign they have realised that they look even more sincere if they can manage a planned ad lib, breaking off from the rostrum. Tony Blair's biopic was deliberately rough-edged, to try to convince us that it was more "real" than a glossier production. But as the politicians and their advisers construct, so their audiences deconstruct. We are communication experts. attuned to the tricks and artifices of film, just as earlier generations were familiar with the tropes of traditional oratory.

In the end, dodging through angry exchanges and the mimicty of anger, spontaneous off-thecuff explanations, and the mimiery of spontaneity; touching artlessness, and earefully prepared, learnt artlessness, we can only go on our guts, our instincts. We yearn to believe in character, and, despite ourselves and our long experience, we thirst for authenticity.

In the end, that is the saving grace of abusive press conferences and tetchy interviews. For as these men get angrier, they expose more of themselves. Pressed by impertinent interviewers, they sometimes forget their training and preparation. The guard slips, a flash of more than make-up can be seen glowing on the cheek. We may tut-tut, but we watch these moments avidly. For time is running out and watching is our duty.

LETTER from

the voter. Here they are again:

Don't let whatever doubts you

may have had about the Con-

servative Party in the past weigh

with you, when the future of the

United Kingdom may be at stake. Think about it. Think

seriousiy. Think again, Look in

my eyes and know this. I will

always deal fair and true by this

Many will find the words

moving. L frankly, found them

creepy. Anyway, the paper was mildly satirised by BBC's

Newsnight programme because

the words quoted were not actually spoken by the Prime

Minister - he departed from his

text, as he is doing increasingly

often. So I owe readers an

explanation. The words were in

a written text released to jour-

nalists as Mr Major's. We checked with Conservative

Central Office: were they happy

to stand by them, to have them

quoted? Yes, yes, very happy. So we went ahead. This still

seems to me to be perfectly rea-

sonable. But it raises the ques-

tion, I suppose, of what words

a politician owns. For televi-

sion, anything that cannot be

filmed does not exist. Words on

paper are spectral, unreal:

words spoken to camera are

real. For writing journalists, words are words are words.

Readers can make up their

A very strange thing happened yesterday. As I was walking to

lunch, timy fingertips started to

fiddle with my hair. A distant

thrumming, drumming sound began. Almost imperceptibly.

the pavement around me began

to darken. From it, there came

a sharp, lemon-and-urine smell

that seemed vaguely familiar. Around me, people stretched

their necks backwards and held

their palms out, like saints in Old Master paintings. What the hell was going on? After a few moments of intense con-

centration, I realised: it was that

almost forgotten phenomenon

"rain", a form of atmospheric

precipitation that has not been

known in these parts for a long

own minds.

great nation."

HE EDITOR

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Absence of debate on how to counter potential conflict in Europe

Sir: Jacques Santer's challenge to Euro-sceptics everywhere ("Santer scorns the 'prophets of doom'", 22 April) has exposed an anomaly in the British election campaign which requires explaining. Namely, the total absence of serious debate on what is arguably one of the major issues of our time: Europe's

common foreign and security policy. While it is generally recognised that the failure to stop the genocidal war in Bosnia represented a massive defeat for Europe's institutions, there is in Britain scant acknowledgement of the need for a co-ordinated and consistent policy within the EU to counter further

potential conflict in Europe. Whilst Europe is divided, the lowest common denominator will continue to prevail. The result of this is already evident in Albania where the heightened political unrest is currently being met by an ad hoc Italian-led mission to escort aid. followed by new elections. But what happens if that is not enough, and the trouble in Albania spills over the borders into Kosovo? Or Macedonia? And what about the rising tensions

between two Nato powers, Greece and Turkey, on the Aegean? In Bosnia, too, there is much

unfinished business. Britain has nearly 6,000 troops there and, with America scheduled to pull its troops out of Bosnia next year, is it not in Britain's national interest to join its EU partners in devising a united strategy to avoid a larger conflagration on Europe's south eastern flank - and possibly the eventual Balkanisation of Europe, as new spheres of influence form in the continuing vacuum of political

The EU common foreign and security policy is likely to impact on longer-term peace in Europe, and closer political and military integration is supported by the majority of EU member states. It is surely the right of the British people to know precisely where the parties stand on this important issue, and to participate in an overdue debate. CAROLE HODGE

Research Associate Institute of Russian and East European Studies Glasgow University

Sir: So France too is to hold parliamentary elections. In his television announcement, which amounted to a campaign manifesto, President Chirac made a ringing endorsement of the advantages for France of the European Union and the single currency, in the manner of those past British leaders of both main parties who campaigned for Britain accession to the Union in the Sixties:

It is true that [Europe] sometimes imposes constraints. But never forget, for half a century, for our old nations who have so often fought one another, Europe is peace. Today, in a world that is organised and transformed ever more rapidly, Europe brings us additional prosperity and security simply because Europe is union, and union makes for strength. important decisions are to be made

in the very next few months: transition to the single currency, an essential step if we want to assert ourselves as a great economic and political power, with a euro equal to the dollar and the yen; reform of the European institutions which we want to make more democratic, more balanced and more

effective; enlargement of the Union to include the young democracies which belong to the European family, and form, with us, the greater Europe; reform of the Atlantic alliance, which must allow the Europeans to take beiter responsibility for their security, in a new sharing with the Americans; and especially, something which most concerns me, a European Union in the service of the people.

The advantages of the Union to France cannot be different from those it holds for Britain. President Chirac's objectives of building "a Europe respectful of the genius of the nations that compose it", and of enlargement to include the young democracies, are close enough to those the present British

government purports to embrace. Why cannot the British election campaign give leadership to the electorate instead of grubbing for votes in the gutter of xenophobia? Apart from Kenneth Clarke, Sir Edward Heath and the Liberal Democrats, there seem to be no statesmen left in Britain. STUART WHYTE Feucherolles, France

Pensioners' plight worsens

Sir: At last pensions have come to the forefront of the political agenda (election '97; "Blair attacks pension proposals", 25 April). It was bound to happen. There are 10.2 million very disgruntled pensioners out there and when all the sound and fury of the exchanges has subsided they will remember which political party has deprived a single pensioner of £21 a week and a married pensioner couple of £33 a week.

They will remember that 1.5 million of their contemporaries are claiming income support because their pensions are so low. That a further million are believed to be entitled to income support but not claiming it, and living in poverty. That 7 million pensioners do not receive sufficient income to pay income tax, and that year on year

their plight will get worse. They will remember whose policies over the past 18 years have brought this about. They will surely vote accordingly. CLIFFORD FULLER Gloucester

RSPB campaign not 'militant'

Sir: While the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is keen to boost its membership and attract a million supporters of all ages, we are not embracing a militant approach as your article suggests (report, 22

The aim of our new poster campaign launched in East Anglia this week is to draw public attention to the increasing range of threats facing birds and the environment. In the last 30 years the decline of wild places has been massive as they have been built on or turned over to intensive farming and forestry. Large parts of the countryside now have considerably less wildlife than they used to and even familiar birds such as the song thrush and skylark are declining at an alarming rate.

The RSPB has been campaigning to improve the environment for birds and people throughout its 108-year history. The support of our loyal membership, which currently stands at 967,000, is even more important if we are to meet the challenges to birds, other wildlife and the environment. The message conveyed in the new poster campaign has been chosen to symbolise the link between birds and the health of the environment. Far from becoming "militant" the RSPB will continue to address important conservation issues through rational practical action based on sound science. BARBARAS YOUNG Chief Executive, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Admission for all to church schools

Sandy, Bedfordshire

Sir. Your continuing concern over the "scandal" of parents "falsely claiming religious beliefs to gain admission to church schools" is misplaced (report, 22 April). The real scandal is that church schools, funded out of the public purse, are denying access to the children of secular parents. In so far as these schools feature amongst the best, secular children are being forced to choose between poorer schools. Yet children from a religious background face no bar to entering the very best secular schools imagine the outcry if non-church

schools tried to deny entry to the

religious grounds.

TERRY MARSHALL

children of church-going parents on

Tohn Major is upset with us time. As London villagers hudfor a mean caricature of dled and did their traditional him that we published on rain-dance, a kind of waddle-Thursday. It illustrated some sprint towards the nearest capwords of his, remarkable words, pucino bar, I remembered why that appeared to repudiate the weather had changed: it has some part of his own party's been brought on by the start of reputation in favour of an eyethe cricket season, and signifies what the English call summer. ball-to-eyeball relationship with

> This month's edition of the Literary Review features a review of a new biography of Cyril Connolly, who was everything that the finest cultured e 20th-century Englishman a aspired to be – in other words. a captivating, brilliant, selfpitying failure. He would lie for days on end in hed sucking a pencil and muttering, "Poor Cyril, poor Cyril." Auberon Waugh's review describes

As Londoners did their traditional rain-dance, I realised why the weather had changed – it is the start of the cricket season

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Connolly post-Eton and Oxford thus: "(he) spent the rest of his life collecting advances for books never written and bumming around as a freelance journalist, meeting people and journalist, meeting people and having a good time, until he settled on The Sunday Times, explaining his angest to anyone who would listen." This strikes 1.1921-12 me as a good description of 521921-how most of the really worthwhile and interesting people I know behave even now ... except, of course, that it ourth me meer on Sur they settled on.

Andreas Whittam-Smith, our eworld nee nutes to ove founder-editor, wrote an excel-stford 4-6 6 lent mediation this week on the in the ATP to truths that are revealed by a photo-journalism, as distinct polytoss in the form provide internalism. He is sent Burgle. from words-journalism. He ssen Buch didn't know it, but timely con- onth-firmation of his view comes in Chargust 3.7 Statistical 18 Statistical 18 today's magazine, where you Ykatersov in will find a description in pictures 10.785, 6 Gh. 2.34 of the Conservative Party that is compelling and irrefutable.

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Andrew Marr Bugues (Soi L.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

A long debilitating haul, beginning in the sticks and ending up where the 18 h thousands comparing some family as a second from the shadow of Big Ben. Thousands comparing some family as a second from the shadow of Big Ben. Thousands comparing some family as a second family as a in the shadow of Big Ben. Thousands competing, some for money. some for charity, and the usual selection of fruit-cakes, chickens. Municipal First room some for charity, and the Usual Selection of Humanaca, comedian, boty (Slock) 6-3, cross-dressers and familiar faces - Rory Bremner, comedian, boty (Slock) 6-3, one flow is a selection of the constitution o comparing the general election to the London Marathon

a) Proposable 1822

MPs get far too much and they line their own pockets as well—

end to a A Marath

A Marath comparing the general election to the London Marathon

Alan Clark, Conservative candidate for Kensington and Chelsea, sometime the by SD to a pensioner in the constituency

Speaking on a public platform comes not from liking the sound NAN IX Makes IX Section of your own voice but from seeking the sound of your own heart of the Body Shop

Anita Roddick, founder of the Body Shop - Anita Roddick, founder of the Body Shop

No one can be a leader of men, can sway with lofty oratory or electrify his troops while his tubes are rumbling with eructations - Roy Porter, Professor of the History of Medicine at the Wellcome

The first thing that came into my head was, 'Now my life will end'-Morihisa Aoki, Japanese ambassador to Peru, on hearing the firs. explosions that led to the end of the embassy siege in Lima Why would I talk about the men in my life? For me, life is not abou men - Catherine Deneuve, actress, who is writing her autobiography

When your name ends in a vowel, you end up carrying a gun:

lot - Anthony LaPaglia, actor, describing his gangster roles

Institute, on indigestion



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A CANADA

Green Party offers long-term solutions

Sir: Sara Parkin ("Support goes to greenest candidate", 23 April) gave her reason for withdrawing from the Green Party as its failure to think strategically about how to work in the British electoral system.

On the contrary, the Green Party has a very clear vision of how to work in that system, and is doing so with growing success at local level.

That vision just doesn't happen to be the particular approach that Ms Parkin sought to impose.

The Green Party is building its

support through local work and

campaigning. There are hundreds of Green candidates in the English county council elections which coincide with the general election on 1 May. Greens are standing in selected parliamentary constituencies across the UK, to give the opportunity to put the green arguments in the general election, on key issues such as the economy, education, the environment and

The Green Party remains the only party committed to the ecological perspective, seeking a future for all of us which will last. This requires fundamental change in economic, social and environmental policies. Candidates of other parties may offer palliatives, but not the longterm solutions that are needed. JOHN NORRIS Richmond upon Thames, Surrey

Making the most of our libraries

Sir: In his piece on public libraries, Thomas Sutcliffe has again hit the spot (Tabloid, 24 April). As an academic librarian and husband of a thriller novelist (Lindsay Townsend) I may be a touch biased, but isn't it a little strange that a nationwide system of information and entertainment with 30 million registered users should be made to

leel unwanted? The ability to try out a wide range of books without having to pay cash up from is for more than half the population a major contribution to education and leisure. What is more, the tastes formed by borrowing from libraries frequently develop into cash sales at bookshops. Public libraries are a national asset and a cultural alimulus, so let's start treating them and funding them - as such. ALAN QUICKE Huddersfield, West Yorkshire



Stonehenge: worshipped by our pagan ancestors

Pagan faiths excluded from the Sacred Land project

Sir: While it was good to read Paul Vallely's article which publicises the work of the Sacred Land project ("The sacred sites of Britain", 22 April), it is hard to express the dismay which I and other pagan women must feel on reading his

We are fortunate in Britain to be the inheritors of many places made sacred by the worship of our ancestors - our pagan ancestors. These include some of our bestknown tourist spots, such as Stonehenge, Avebury and Silbury Hill; as well as lesser-known spots such as the well of St Mary's

Willesden, whose patron pagan goddesses were later incorporated into masculine-dominated Christianity in the form of black virgins and saints. For decades before the creation of

the Sacred Land project, pagans in Britain have been campaigning for both the protection of these sacred sites and for respect for them as places of peace, meditation and veneration. Why is it then that pagan religion, which is goddess-venerating and the religious faith of many thousands of people in Britain representation on the Sacred Land

project, and that no representative of the pagan faiths has been invited to attend the ceremony today led by the Archbishop Canterbury?

For centuries women and the

goddess have been excluded from any voice in mainstream religion. It seems that the Sacred Land project intends to perpetuate this. How strange when for so many people the Earth and its sacred sites are so strongly associated with the Divine as goddess and not god. Dr VIVIANNE CROWLEY Interfaith Committee The Pagan Federation London WCI

Noisy music is dangerous to aural health

Sir. Further to Lilian Simlett-Moss's letter (24 April), may I echo her question, why do we permit dangerous levels of sound in public entertainment? I write as one who listened to the Rolling Stones' Cardiff Arms Park concert from the steps outside the stadium, having been forced to leave my husband, friends and (expensive) seat because

of my discomfort. But another aspect of this "noisy music" phenomenon causes disagreements in our house. I

maintain that, both on the radio and television, the sound level increases for musical bits of otherwise nonmusical programmes. My husband and son say it's just my paranoia about noise. Does anyone agree with me? MAIR GAUNT

Sir: The health risks in loud discos and concerts are even worse than generally realised (letter, 24 April). Many people, usually the young, suffer life-long incurable tinuitus after being exposed to 120 decibels or

The fragile human ear is not built for such annal assaults, yet pop music promoters remain outside the sound safety laws which govern places of work. The constant roar of tinnitus is invisible and therefore ignored by governments, with no money being spent on research and treatment ignored in most NHS hospitals. MICHAEL O'TOOLE Director, Tinnitus Action London SE18

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Squire, Canary Wharf, London E14 SDL (Rac: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are anable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

The politician who lives like a prince



Haughey meets the stores magnate Ben Dunne, 'a walking Santa Claus', in 1986, and (right) the former Taoiseach at

Charles Haughey has a legendary ability to survive. But five years after leaving power he has been implicated in a Dublin payments scandal that threatens his political legacy, says Alan Murdoch

n American commentator once described a US politician. Edward Livingstone, as "a man of splendid abilities but utterly corrupt. Like rotten mackerel by moonlight, he shines and stinks."

Generations of Irish have grown up simultaneously loving and loathing Charlie Haughey, a political colossus whose career has dominated modern Irish history. His cabinet role spanned 30 years in a career extending from the Fifties to the Nineties. Macmillan was in Downing Street when he entered office, John Major when he left.

Yet despite cleverly steering Ireland, often against considerable conservative obstacles, towards European modernity, events this week mean his name is now more likely to be remembered for scandal and crisis than statecraft. As a series of extraordinary revelations laid bare the furtive financial arrangements that permitted him to live more as a prince than politician, the mysterious aura that for 30 years surrounded his regal style slid was replaced by humili-

That this is happening now, almost five years after his exit from power quothave done the state some service; they know't. No more of that") is the supreme irony. On countless occasions in government or when leading his Fianna Fail party in opposition, a garda. Asked "Did you not see the

neck saw him tough it out when his political obituaries were already written, and, more than once, actually printed.

From the start he behaved as if hovering above mere mortals, secure on an imperious cloud of invulnerability. He astutely married the prime minister's daughter, Maureen Lemass. He bought and sold north Dublin land for lucra-

His brash coterie turned the austere nationalist Fianna Fail, founded in 1927 by Eamon De Valera, initially a small farmers and urban masses movement, into a party leaning more towards property speculators and developers, while also advancing welcome social reforms, notably for women. There were regular lunches for the

"Taca" club of business benefactors, who not-so-mysteriously won favour on government work. Donogh O'Malley, the education minister who brought in free secondary education, was ever candid: "When all other things are equal, we give it to our people.

Haughey's young Fianna Fail party cohorts were known as the "men in mohair suits". With the late Brian Lenihan and Donogh O'Malley, Haughey regularly drank late at the old Hibernian Hotel in Dawson Street, chased women and became legends of indulgence. The devil-may-care O'Malley, after driving the wrong way down a one-way street, was stopped by Haughey's cunning and brazen hard arrows?" He replied, "To tell the truth

guard. I didn't even see the feckin'

Haughey himself liked showing female visitors the bull sculpture on his office window sill and explaining its vir-

In 1970, after a Dublin cabinet subcommittee's plan to assist beleaguered northern Catholics collapsed in bitter acrimony, he was sacked as finance minister and charged, in the infamous Arms Trial, with gun-running. Many felt Taoiseach Jack Lynch had simply bot-tled out and deserted his own ministers. Lynch himself had publicly made plain that Dublin could not "stand by" while attacks were made on Catholic areas in Northern Ireland. The importation of arms from Europe into Dublin followed pleas from democratic nationalist politicians in Northern Ireland, and was intended to help Catholics defend themselves from attack. When the plan was leaked in suspicious circumstances, a disapproving Dublin Department of Justice official intervened, leading to

aughey, who could have defended his involvement and won, denied the charges and was around him what one observer neatly dubbed "the whiff of cordite". Cast into the political wilderness until 1977, he toured the country acquiring a republican halo in the eyes of a fanatical following, matched only by a total mistrust from vehement opponents. "I wouldn't give him the itch if I thought he'd get warm on a cold day scratching himself," declared one voter in a 1982 election

After unseating Lynch as Fianna Fail leader in 1979, vain attempts followed to achieve a Northern Íreland settlement. Hanghey wooed Margaret Thatcher with a Georgian silver teapot and talk of major "institutional" or

"constitutional" change. The 1981 hunger strikes saw Haughey's own sons physically attacked by militant H-block maigners furious at his refusal to

take their side. Never secure as party leader, dis-content grew over some dubious frontbench appointments and the bizarre 1982 discovery of a murderer in his attorney general's flat. A split came in 1986 when Haughey sided with Catholic conservatives against freely-available contraception, and after he acceded to "pro-life" anti-abortion line and, initially, opposed parts of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. Coalition in 1989 with former enemies now in the new Progressive Democrats alienated more party veterans, culminating in the ruthless sacrifice of Lenihan, his oldest friend, at the behest of that party.

But there were plusses. One-sided professional Hanghey-haters ignore the fact that his 1987-92 governments were visionary architects of today's "Celtic Tiger" revival. Far-sighted development policies then re-directed a low-margin, food-based economy towards new hi-tech activities - from computers to film, financial services to entertainment, international telesales

This encouraged ambivalence. People with no illusions about Haughey's opportunist nature still believed he was good for the country and felt uplifted by his staunch patriotism. They set his Mitterrand-inspired grand projects against the dreary jobless austerity and hyper-taxation through which Garret Fitzgerald all but bankrupted Ireland in the mid-Eighties.

They also chuckled at the unashamed grandeur of Haughey's home life. perennial gossip about his enjoyment of female company (he once confided, sono voce "I love sex,") and his slightly absurd apeing of gentry with his riding stables, 280-acre estate, Georgian man-

sion, and yacht, topped off with the purchase of a private Atlantic island, Inishvickillaune, in the Blaskets off Kerry. One of his three sons also acquired a busy helicopter firm.

A recent 70th anniversary history of Fianna Fail considers how wealth might have come his way. After highlighting the accountancy firm Haughey set up after graduating, it adds: "An old house, which needed a lot of upkeep and refurbishment, like Abbeville (Haughey's mansion) could be picked up at a relatively modest cost in the Sixties, as few people wanted such properties. (His) success was largely achieved by his own efforts, as opposed to that achieved with the assistance of the comfortable connections that tend to come with inherited wealth or position."

rather different account of how Haughey sustained this life began emerging this week at the Dublin Castle tribunal that has been investigating payments to politicians by Ben Dunne, when head of his family's Irish and British chain of 95 supermarkets and clothing stores.

Haughey's accountancy firm has featured in the inquiry. A former colleague named by Dunne as the "bagman" who in 1988 approached Dunne's accountant seeking help in defraying Hanghey's then £700,000 debts. By 1991, Dunne, a walking Santa Claus worth £150m, had bailed his freespending prime minister out to the tune of £1.3m. Witnesses to the tribunal said that the initial payment of £500,000 in July 1988 was followed by £150,000 and £200,000 in 1989 and 1990. Dunne agreed that Haughey never intervened on his or his firm's behalf, and himself never sought political favours.

Haughey, now 71, has declined to be

Dunne's Stores' new management, seeking repayment of the allegedly improper payments, he flatly denied receiving funds from Dunne's or an

associate company.

Most memorably, Dunne, who quit the firm four years ago (documents aired in his acrimonious departure led to the payments scandal becoming public last November) revealed that in 1991 he departure in for a care of tea with the he dropped in for a cup of tea with the former Taoiseach at Abbeville after a game of golf and, seeing a "broken-koking" Haughey, spontaneously gave him three unsolicited bank drafts worth £210,000 made out in fictitious names, saying, "Here's something for yourself." Haughey had replied "Thunks, big fella," the businessman told the stunned tribunal which, packed by an eager public, seemed more shocked that someone would suggest dropping in on the fiercely intimidating presence for tea than at his receipt of funds beyond his salary.

Given Haughey's lifestyle, many now wonder if Dunne was unique as a largescale personal benefactor. They recall his close alliances with a series of business figures.

The volatile Dunne's generous side meant that if you met him on a good day £2m to charities and helped several parties. Dunne confirmed that the present Taoiseach, John Bruton, visited him for tea and received a £100,000 donation for his Fine Gael party.

The Irish government coalition of Fine Gael, Labour and Democratic Left hope Fianna Fail will be seriously damaged by the affair. Fine Gael has itself suffered collateral damage, seeing its transport minister resign last November. Seasoned observers expect that a general election will be called when maximum damage has been done to Fianna Fail's electability. Haughey's legally represented at the tribunal. In correspondence with lawyers acting for dearly in votes for years to come.

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jo brand's week

Graham Greene, the writer. was one famous person who had a doppelgänger who popped up all over the world for years, saying he was the author and reaping benefits as he went. The reason this sort of thing happens, I think, is because people are so gullible. Most of us tend, for no other reason than assuming most people tell the truth, to believe what we

hear. I'm afraid I have to include myself in the ranks of the gullible, as I fell into the trap many have, when I was quite happy to believe a bloke who introduced himself to me at The Comedy Store as the keyboard player from the

band, Dodgy. Coincidentally, my tour manager John has worked quite a lot with Dodgy, driving the tour bus and doing security, and so it seemed reasonable to ask this bloke if he knew John. "Never heard of him," said our friend cheerfully, and went on to demonstrate that he also had a very poor knowledge of the band and what they had been up to. For example, the lead singer ("he's called Graham really but he never uses it") is in fact called Nigel. I'm afraid

we soon tired of our drunken friend and packed him off to the pub with some of the other performers from the show, where he continued to irritate them until closing time. When they could stand it no longer, they all sneaked out while he was in the toilet. Rules of impersonation: 1) learn your stuff; 2) don't be so irritating that people can't wait to escape from you.

Selina Scott got a bit of a

roasting in the press this week because she earns so much money. Her situation demonstrates in many ways what the shortcomings and hypocrisies of the media are. First of all, if these people at Sky are prepared to pay her that much, more fool them. Secondly, Ms Scott's argument that she is a working mother with no security, so we should sympathise with her mega pay packet, doesn't wash. She's probably got enough in the bank as we speak to keep her very comfortable for the rest of her days. Thirdly, the argument that only high ratings deserve big bucks is sending us down that road of attempting to appeal only to the bring-back-hanging, Sun-

quite enough influence already, thank you very much. There are many superb programmes on telly that don't necessarily get huge ratings. Hope someone powerful from Channel 4 is reading this.

I have always thought that the phrase "champagne socialists" says far more about the people who use it than those at whom it is directed. I imagine the term was coined by people who simply cannot believe that those who have got their hands on the god that is money don't just want to make more and more and turn their luxurious lives inward, ignoring the plight of others. I also think that the users of the term resent the fact that some tich people are I see that a teenage not all bastards, as they are.

Edwina Cmrie aligned herself with the ranks of the Daily Mail harridans this week when she remarked that she was "thinner and prettier" than Emma Nicholson. This sort of

behaviour only goes to confirm that some women in politics are quite happy to take on the playground mentality of the blokes. This election campaign is fast turning into Grange Hill, and there's not a damn thing any of us can do about it. If thin and pretty has anything whatsoever to do with one's political ideology, let's get the supermodels into politics and see what they make of the convergence criteria for

week for including an article along the lines of "I slept with loads of blokes" - I think the figure was 40 in three months. The critics of the magazine were worried that the way in which the article was written and presented would make it look as though this sort of behaviour was a good thing to

Oh, don't make me laugh, If teenage girls know one thing, it is that a girl who sleeps with lots of boys is "a slag. (This is made perfectly clear to us at a very young age.) So the thought that any teenage girl will read this article with anything other a wry smile, is silly,

If grown-ups want to know what it is that influences the young ones, they need look no further than the trusty peer group. I saw a piece on telly this week about schoollads who carry rucksacks full of books over one shoulder because it is "cool", despite the fact that it is ruining their backs. One girl was quoted as saying, "If everyone else started using both straps, I would too." So glad I'm not a teenager any more. See you all in 10 years' time, you poor little hunchbacked

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Sign language



vents his anger at the sloppy use of language on TV, tubes and taxis

william hartston

here is one moment on the television news that always infuriates me and I have finally realised why. It's just before the newsreader gives the score of the football match that is about to be screened and tells the viewer: "If you don't want to know the result, then turn away from the screen." I haven t the remotest interest in the result, so why on earth should the newsreader be cajoling me to join the massed ranks of football hooligans who, at that very moment, will be coyly averting their communal gaze from the television? So despite my passionate lack of interest, I keep my eyes rooted to the screen.

The true cause of my annoyance, however, is not so much my anti-football fanaticism as a purist's resentment at sloppy use of language. When he says: "If you don't want to know the result ..." he doesn't mean that at all. What he really means is: "If you want not to know the result ...". Only someone with a positive desire not to know the information on the screen should be instructed to turn away, not those of us who merely lack the desire to

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look at it. London Underground falls into a similar loose language in its two escalatorial imperatives: "Please stand on the right" and "Dogs must be carried on the escalator". The first of these should simply be amended to Please do not stand on the left", but the second poses

more significant problems. Taken at face value, it appears to demy access to the escalator to anyone not carrying a dog. This may, of course, have been the original intention. Perhaps in the early days of the Underground, passengers carried dogs down into the tunnels as an essential safety measure rather like canaries down mine-shafts. There was probably a cage full of dogs at the top of the escalators and an attendant passing one to each commuter. If the dog passed out at the foot of the escalator, the passenger would hurtle up the up escalator for a whiff of smelling salts. ("Had a terrible journey to work today, chaps. Got saddled with a Rottweiler on the Bakerloo.") Or they may have been sniffer dogs, trained to

detect asbestos. What with staff cuts and improved ventilation, however, the practice died out, but the dogs must be carried" signs

Or it may be just another case of easily avoidable sloppiness. "Dogs on the escalator must be carried" would be a considerable improvement, though, it must be confessed, would not totally solve the problem for there is something unsatisfactory about using a passive verb in a call for action. The command is, after all, implicitly directed at the dogs' owners, though the opening words "dogs must" could hardly be better calculated to lose the interest of any non-canine. The ideal formulation would be: "Any person riding the escalator in the company of a dog or dogs is required to carry it or them respectively for the duration of his or her escalatorial sojourn." I strongly exhort London Underground to

amend all their signs Until they do so, I would boycott the Underground were it not for the lack of linguistically pure alternatives On buses, one is always liable to encounter a sign saying:
"Do not stand forward of this notice." Quite apart from the perfectly horrid "forward of" (say "further forward thau" dear, if you want people to think you're English), which side of the wretched thing is forward? Is it forwards, from the point of view of the person reading it, or from the point of view of the notice itself? The issue is further complicated by the positioning of such notices in a manner suggesting that the

tell which sideways is forwards? That leaves us with taxis, which would be all very well, but for their pseudo-polite Thank you for not smoking signs. Logically, such a sage ought to, indeed must, be ignored by anyone who is smoking, yet such people are precisely those at whom the message is aimed. It's the same idiotic semiotics as interrupting a taxi-driver in mid-rant with the words: Thank you for not talking to me." Anyway, thank you for not giving up before the end,

and if you weren't interested.

I hope you looked away.

"forward" they refer to is

actually one of the sideways

directions, but how can one

I feel like voting for 'None of the Above'

can't believe it. For the first time in this election I feel inclined to vote. There I was, in my local off-licence. when a leaflet on the counter caught my eye. "If you don't like what you are hearing, then why not vote for ... None of the Above." It went on: "Around 25 per cent of this country does not vote in general elections, rising to 65 per cent in local and Euro elections. We feel that in a true democracy we should have the chance to say: I do not feel represented by any of the available options. If you feel inclined not to vote, or to spoil your paper, why not vote for None of the Above." None of the Above turns out to be a 24-year-old local lad, a student of politics and philo-sophy named Dickon Tolson.

ughter saw his picture on the leaflet and said that he had been on television. "Yeah, I've done The Bill and Peak Practice, stuff like that." A graduate of the Anna Scher school, he is also an actor, but is frustrated and concerned at the apathy and lack of moral cohesion in the political climate. So he bas decided to put his life savings into standing for election in Hackney North.

I met him at party HQ - his flat in Stoke Newington - and asked for a fuller copy of his manifesto. He had them, he said, but he hadn't managed to print them out of his computer yet. There are no spin doctors on this guy, but what he has got are some extremely sound reasons for wanting to get involved. "I am always complaining, but you can't sit around complaining all the time. You just get resentful. So I felt I had to do something, ye there was no party that I felt represented me. The name comes from an old Richard Pryor film, Brewster's Millions, where this guy is trying to avoid power by calling himself None of the Above."

Tolson was concerned about what he calls "the active nonvote". He is the anti-Swampy. He considers that of the 25 per cent of non-voters who are written off as lazy, apathetic or non-political, "maybe 10 percent of them are lazy, but that still leaves 15 per cent of the population who are making a protest, whose voices aren't being heard." His manifestoranges from scrapping the Criminal Justice Act, to joining the Social Chapter, to the effects of synthetic oestrogens. to open negotiations for peace in Northern Ireland, to a bill of rights, to controlled legalisation of drugs. I would describe it basically as a younger agenda than any other I've seen.

Dickon describes himself as a "liberal libertarian". "I'm not a hard-line anarchist because I'm not against the ideology of democracy, I'm against the way it is put into practice. I'm using the tools of anarchy to deseed the roots of power but I don't see anarchy as a final stage, it's always transitory. It is about re- it actually. You don't want



Suzanne Moore discovers a candidate in her constituency who offers a compelling reason to participate in an election which had otherwise failed to arouse her enthusiasm

education and redistribution and self-improvement. I don't want to remove the state because we are not restrained enough, and what would happen to the people who can't take care of themselves? I want to provide a safety net for that bottom 20 per cent."

But would he really want to

be a MP? "Twenty-five grand" a year, a car, a secretary? That would be great, but I know it's a 100 per cent non-possibility." He's a realist, so how many votes does he expect? He shows me a map of the constituency, Hackney North, which is Diane Abbott's seat. Well, there are 63,000 people here, so pessimistically maybe 100, optimistically 2,500, because that is the 5 per cent you need to get your deposit back." He has not done any canvassing yet. "Yeah, I'm going. Maybe I'll start next week. I'm a bit nervous about

some fascist skinhead to start I don't want anything to do on you on the doorstep." As for so many young people, it was the Criminal Justice Bill that "pushed me over the edge of apathy. On the march I just sat down and the police hit me anyway. The Bill went through. It was as if all the normal channels of protest were just a waste of time."

Dickon had been at one time "a very angry young man". Between the ages of 13 and 18. he went on a lot of protests and engaged in what he calls "amicable physical contact" with the police. "I never went out looking for trouble, but if you put petrol and matches together ... He even joined the Workers' Revolutionary Party for a couple of months "I was really into revolution for a while until I realised that when they got into power they seriously wanted to put all these people up against the

wall. Animal Farm, and all that.

with that, I'm not into violence." Any sex scandals we should know about? I ask. "I wish," he says. He is proud that he has

"assimilated" a bit more. "I even use money. Ive got a mortgage," he says with some surprise. So how does he distinguish himself from the Labour Party, for instance? "I just call them Tory Team B. I would say I'm left wing enough to piss people off but not left wing enough to be a pub revolutionary." He notes that many European countries have stronger unions than we do. He has also been watching American politics for some time. "The parties have got to look at the effect of pressure groups, of issue politics - that is where it is at now." The local issues he is interested in are the closing down of libraries in Hackney and the planned dual car-

riageway through Stoke

Newington - and he wants more cycle lanes. Mostly you feel, talking to him, that he wants to engage with a system that many of his age group find it easier to

ignore. In these days of slick, sick bulldogs it is easy to accuse him of naïvete, but when you bother to listen to this thoughtful young man you are reminded that this is mum says she can't think of what democracy is all about. He is merely trying to represent those under-represented.

main worry at present is that though his surname begins with a T, near the end of the alphabet, he may not come last on the ballot paper. Another name under the None of the Above box wouldn't look so good. He thinks it will work out.

What does his family think of what he is doing? "My anyone better to be an MP." Well she would say that, wouldn't she? The thing is, to give voice to dissent. His she may well be right.

Petronella Wyatt runs off with Imran Khan.

66 THE WOMAN CALLED OUT, 'ELEANOR.

Petronella Wyatt goes in IT'S THAT

search of the Goldsmith JEMIMY.' campaign against David Mellor in Putney and

ELEANOR PULLED AT

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Jemima Khan, Plus

other local election

'DON'T YOU LOOK SMART. BUT WHERE'S YOUR OLD MAN?' >>

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An ice-pack for the brow of a fevered electorate

Make way for a rough new gang

hatever happens next Thursday, we are about to witness the start of an historic transformation in the House of Commons. For the best part of two centuries, the nurseries. for our political leadership have been the ancient universities of Oxford and Cambridge. There are exceptions -Lord Callaghan comes to mind, as does our current Prime Minister - but the curricula vitae of most of the leading figures in British politics for several generations have included some time in the debating societies of the ancient universities. The Scottish ascendancy in the Labour Party should not be stressed too much; in their own ways, St Andrews and Edin-burgh have fulfilled the same role.

in any event, the influence of this network on British politics has been undeniable. Its latest incarnation has been the circle of former Cambridge Union office-holders, which includes Kenneth Clarke, Michael Howard, John Gummer and Norman Lamont. Their contemporaries are to be found scattered through the worlds of journalism and business. Every so often, one can sense in their debates a familiarity that stretches back to those days in the Union. Their manner is, by and large, Sentcel; they prize the clever, the literare and the witty. Even when they do go in for rabble-rousing, one feels that they are vaguely embarrassed by it; overblown rhetoric is never embraced with the relish shown by a Skinner or a Scargill, men bred on the need to inspire and inflame masses of people who drather be somewhere else. The Oxbridge set car, of course, be brutal. But they prize the elegant verbal stiletto, the

than the full-frontal attack. Their models have been Disraeli, Churchill (despite not being one of the club), Gaitskell, Butler, Macmillan. Above all, they regard the House of Commons and its rituals with an awe bordering on the religious. After all, this is what the Union prepared them for all those years ago.

This time, upwards of two dozen candidates likely to end up in the House are graduates of a different, rougher political school. During the late Sixties, with the massive expansion of higher education, a new breed of student politician emerged. For the most part, student throughout the period the National Union of Students exploded from fewer than 250,000 members to more than 1

1969, the National Union of Students has become a forcing-ground for political talent. Straw himself is the best known of the alumni; they also include Charles Clarke, Neil Kinnock's chief of staff. But this is not a Labour fiefdom. Alan Leaman, Paddy Ashdown's former strategy boss, and, surprisingly perhaps, Sconish Secretary Michael Forsyth, also cut their teeth in the roughhouse of the NUS. Forsyth perhaps does not trumpet



Trevor Phillips

A new breed of politician is about to take over from the old guard. They are more ruthless, less concerned

with fairness:

they like to

win

his past involvement for good political reasons. He spent most of his year as chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students trying to persuade Scot-tish students to leave the NUS, using roughly the same arguments currently deployed by the SNP. The influence of this circle stretches

wider. If Mr Blair wins, one of the most influential voices in his circle will be that of Peter Mandelson, who, though never a full-time NUS activist, fought and won his first election to become president of his college union. The circle also encompasses the world outside party politics. Mandelson's close colleague at the British Youth Council, Tom Shebbeare, is now chief executive to the Prince's Trust, and said to be the most important influence on the Prince of Wales. He is also the best influence, in the sense of keeping HRH's feet somewhere near terra firma. Sue Slipman, former NUS president, who made her name campaigning for the rights of one-parent families, will now present a formidable challenge to a new secretary of state for trade and industry, running the Gas Consumers Council. Several others run large organisations of this type, or aspire

And therein lies the clue to the difference. The Oxbridge generation had to leave college and build businesses before they got their hands on budgets of any size, or had to manage anybody other than their servants. They had to enter politics before they could experience the sordid business of private deals between sworn enemies, or shows of unity with people they hated and despised. The NUS generation had learnt all this by

dent of the NUS, had managed a staff of 65, and a budget the equivalent of £5m, by my mid-twenties.

The result is that these people are quite different from their predecessors. They are more ruthless and less concerned with good manners and fairness. They like to win. Michael Forsyth has single-mindedly refashioned the historically aristocratic and middle-class Scottish Conservatives in his image - tough, populist, rightish. He may have saved it from extinction. New Labour owes much to Charles Clarke's pursuit and destruction of the Militant Tendency. To win, they know that they have to be brilliantly organised. Yesterday the clipboard was their weapon; today it is the laptop and the mobile phone. They terrify the old guard in their

Oddly enough, they are also comfortable with unlikely alliances. People who started political life in groups that could include Liberals and Communists would scarcely draw a breath at some of the reverses undertaken by Labour. They may also be completely unalarmed by the idea that a new electoral system might be embraced. The cultural change about to hit the House of Commons may

precede something that will amaze us all. One thing that I hope will change under the next government is the com-plexion of the political élite - and I mean that literally. This is not just about having more black MPs. I was astonished, on joining the Prime Minister's entourage yesterday, to discover that among more than 100 journalists and photographers mine was the only black face. It felt like

being in a time warp, circa 1950.

union elections became victous contests among the pretty far left (then called the Broad Left, and including Labour, Com-munist and even some Liberal students), the even further left (known as the ultra-left) and the intergalactically spaced-out left - who rejoiced in appel lations such as the Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist). Remarkably, despite the savagery of the politics,

> million at the start of the Eighties. Since the presidency of Jack Straw in

business & city

High Court judge attacks City 'dishonesty'

Regan accused of 'iniquitous conduct' as net widens to 17 more companies

The scandal surrounding Andrew Regan's failed £1.2bn break-up bid for the Co-op widened vesterday to include 17 leading City financial institu-tions and blue-chip companies. They were supplied with confidential information stolen from the Co-op after what a High Court judge described as "inquitous conduct" on the part of

Mr Regan and his advisers. Details of the scale on which confidential information was circulated in the City emerged as the CWS won an extension to the High Court injunction banning the use of the illicitly obtained information. This had been provided to Mr Regan by Allan Green, the CWS controller of retailing who was sus-

pended earlier this month. Ruling in favour of the CWS, Mr Justice Lightman said: "I regard this as a quite exceptional case [and a] gross, wilful and disgraceful breach of confidence." He added: "It was inevitable that this bid would be stopped as soon as it was apparent that it was based on iniquitous conduct on the part of those making it."

Hambros Bank

Hillier Parker

J Sainsbury

J P Morgan

Lloyds Bank

Bankers Trust

He described the methods of obtaining the information as erator of smaller convenience clearly dishonest".

The CWS was also awarded the most punitive form of costs against the Regan camp. These are expected to run to millions of bounds and there will be a further claim for damages.

The CWS's QC, Christopher Clarke, read out in court a list of the 17 City firms which had received confidential information, mostly distributed by Hambros Bank, Mr Regan's financial adviser.

The list included Nomura International which withdrew its backing for Mr Regan on Thursday, Price Waterhouse, Goldman Sachs, UBS and JP Morgan. Also cited was Sainsbury, the supermarket group which recently called off talks with Mr Regan to buy some of the Co-op supermarkets.

The information provided was so detailed that it fell into 32 categories including trading forecasts, the board's budget for 1997 and the entire CWS membership on diskette apart from

those in Northern Ireland. In his sworn affidavit, Mr Green also admitted discussing with Mr Regan the possibility

How Co-op secrets were spread around the City

The companies and institutions who

received confidential CWS documents,

principally from Hambros Bank

Goldman Sachs International

Jupiter International Group

Union Bank of Switzerland

HSBC Investment Bank

Leucadia National Corporation

Lloyds Bank Registrars

Nomura International

Price Waterhouse

Société Générale

Healey & Baker

erator of smaller convenience store outlets and about possible buyers of the larger stores including Tesco and Aliders.

Appealing to the judge Mr Clarke said: "It is just that they pay now the cost ... for behaviour we consider outrageous."

At a press conference staged later at the headquarters of SBC Warburg, the CWS's advisers, Graham Melmoth, the society's chief executive spoke of a "cascade" of stolen information saying it was an issue that "strikes to the heart of the City". He said: "The City prides

itself on its system of self-reg-ulation and demands high standards of probity and integrity. Those standards must have been called into question by the activities of certain parties." Brian Keelan, the CWS' key adviser at SBC Warburg said: "The last week has not been a

good one for the City. It is an ugly situation." He added that on Monday Warburg's had delivered to Hambros a file of information

thought to contain details of the controversial £2.4m payment to an offshore company by Regan two years ago.



Justice Lightman: Scorned

to reveal the contents of the file he said he had expected Hambros to withdraw its backing for Mr Regan's bid at that point. But the bank decided to press ahead

The CWS has added Hambros and Travers Smith Braithwaite, Mr Regan's legal advisers, to the injunction banning the use of the confidential information. It is also pursuing private civil proceedings against both. How-ever, Travers Smith issued a short statement yesterday saying: "We will resist most strongly any claim which may be made against us." The firm believes that the theft of information is not included under the theft act.

The CWS is now pursuing the 17 institutions which received confidential Co-op information for assurances that it will not be used. It said replies had been received from some while others were taking advice from their lawyers. It said further action was possible. "We're not going to just sit back if another bid were to emerge that is based on that information."

Mr Melmoth said he did not feel triumphant as a result of the victory. He said the Regan "bid" would have a "cathartic" effect on the movement and encourage it to improve its performance and move its disparate societies closer together. Mr Regan could not be con-

tacted yesterday. It has emerged that the CWS has written to the Stock Exchange asking it to investigate whether any shareholders in Galileo traded shares in Lanica Trust with the benefit of inside information. In the letter it points out that confidential Co-op documents were distributed to Galileo's shareholders, including Jupiter Tyndall. A number of these were also shareholders in Lanica, whose shares were rising strongly on speculation of a big deal. Lanica's shares have been suspended since February. An announcement from the Exchange is expected in a few days.



CWS turns up heat on Hambros

John Willcock and Nigel Cope

The pressure on Hambros Bank grew yesterday as CWS commenced civil proceedings against the venerable blue chip merchant bank which has been advising Andrew Regan on his controversial takeover bid.

Mr Justice Lightman gave the go-ahead in the High Court yesterday for CWS to commence an action for damages against Hambros. The case centres on confidential documents provided to Mr Regan's bidding vehicle, Galileo, and his advisers, Hambros, by two senior CWS executives.

Graham Melmoth, chief executive of CWS, expressed his outrage yesterday at the way the documents containing highly confidential information, including minutes of CWS board meetings, were distributed by Hambros to 17 other institutions. Mr Melmoth said that "the documents have gone cascading

CWS were Peter Large and Andence of illegal activity at the heart of the City.'

The list of 17 included several banks, which Hambros approached to provide financing for the deal to buy CWS. Most declined to support the bid, but Nomura was about to complete a £1.2bn deal before it withdrew this week. Banking sources said Nomura had failed

drew Salmon. A spokesman for Hambros

said last night that it could not make any comment on the affair now that legal proceedings had started.

In a series of devastating letters this from Graham Melmoth to Lord Hambro, chairman of Hambros, the CWS boss con-

around ... We've uncovered evidence of illegal activity at the heart of the City 9 - Melmoth

to receive assurances from Galileo about the provenance of the information on CWS. CWS is taking legal action against the bank as a whole, not the individual employees who worked on behalf of Mr Regan.

cluded that: "It is inconceivable that anyone could have concluded that the documents had been obtained by legitimate means from a legitimate source.

Hambros continued its sup-

mura International to withdraw its £1.2bn of debt finance which finally forced Mr Regan to concede defeat.

UBS was approached by Hambros on 16 April to take part in the financing of the Regan bid. It is understood it received documents the following day. However, the negative publicity surrounding the deal deterred the bank from sup-

porting the bid. Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, was another institution on the list of names that had seen the documents. The normally low profile bank was moved to issue a statement vesterday: "Goldman Sachs was represented at a presentation given by Hambros and Galileo in late March.

"We decided immediately and made clear to the other parties within days that we were not interested in proposals put forward in respect of CWS. Doc-uments received were handed back to Hambros immediately

Additional reporting by Chris around the City." He added: The main figures at Hambros port right to the bitter end. It when they were requested. "We've uncovered much evitat worked on the bid for was only the decision of Nother statement said. Key figures in the abortive £1.2bn takeover bid for the Co-op















(from left): Andrew Regan; David Lyons, Mr Regan's business partner; Allan Green and David Chambers, both suspended as executives by the Co-op; David Evans, shareholder and former director of Galileo, Andrew Regan's bid vehicle; Lord Hambro, chairman of Hambros Bank; and Peter Large, part of Mr Regan's advisory team

Morgan pays £200m in compensation

Nic Cicutti

Personal Finance Editor

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management yesterday moved to close a chapter in the scandal surrounding the three troubled funds run by Peter Young, its maverick former manager. by promising that more than 80,000 individual investors in the trusts will receive about £100m in compensation.

Payments averaging about £1,200 per person will be sent on Tuesday to investors in the three funds, in which dealings were briefly suspended in September after trading irregularities were uncovered. A further 90,000 investors.

whose savings were held in 250 nominee accounts run on their behalf by a number of life companies, incouding Skandia and Acgon, are expected to receive compensation worth a further £100m within the next few

The payments, to be made either by cheque or by topping up individuals' unit trust accounts. brings to £400m the total cost of Peter Young's activities being shouldered by Deutsche Bank, Morgan Grenfell's German parent.

Frances Davies, head of pooled funds at Morgan Grenfell, said: "The compensation will be paid on the basis of a formula agreed with Imro [the

fund management regulator]. We believe what has been She added that some 70 per cent of unitholders in the three funds. European Growth. Europa and European Capital

top-ups rather than cash The mechanism for paying compensation involves setting August 1st 1995 as the starting date for assessing redress. This is the moment identified by Morgan Grenfell when Peter Young began his irregular

Growth, had already requested

Micropal, the specialist financial statistics provider. was asked to calculate average

fund performance to Septem-ber 1996 for trusts within the same sectors and operating on the same principles as the three affected Morgan Grenfell ones.

In the case of the European Growth Trust, the flagship fund run by Peter Young, its growth was just 2.05 per cent compared to the average growth of the benchmark funds of 15.4 per cent over this period.

Calculating the compensation to be paid involves comparing the price at which investors bought the units and when they were sold, or September 6 1996, ife held to that

Losses between the two

INTEREST RATES

prices will be repaid in full, Ms Davies said yesterday. Investors would also receive an "underpin" to their funds returning their money in full, inleuding the bid-offer spread on the investment. Payments would be topped up by an additional 6 per cent compound interest payable from September last

The payments next week bring to a close another chapter in the saga which severely damaged the credibility of Mor-gan Grenfell. Earlier this month it was fined £2m, plus £1.5m costs for a vast catalogue of regulatory offences that allowed Mr Young to engage in

Ulster watchdog rejects MMC electricity curbs

Michael Harrison

The electricity watchdog for Northern Ireland yesterday rejected new price controls recommended by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in a move which could have serious repercussions for utility reguation throughout the UK.

Douglas McIldoon, the director-general of electricity supply, said he was not minded to accept some of the price controls for Northern Ireland Electricity called for by the MMC. The regulator and the MMC acceptable levels of capital and terms of 14 per cent.

ed and could have ramifications for the way in which Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas reacts when the Government pub-lishes the MMC's long-awaited report into price controls for British Gas's transportation

arm, now known as BG. NIE had proposed a cut of 22 per cent in certain of its charges while the regulator wanted a re-duction of 33 per cent. The

operating expenditure. Patrick Haren, chief executive
The dispute is unprecedent- of NIE, warned that Mr McIIdoon's refusal to accept the MMC's ruling threatened to bring the whole regulatory framweork into disrepute, adding "It is not now open to the direc-tor-general to reject the MMC's conclusions and we shall resist any

attempt on his part to do so." Although regulators are technically at liberty to disregard the MMC findings, since it is effectively acting as a court of appeal, MMC has proposed a reduction of 28 per cent which will mean recommendations to be accepted.

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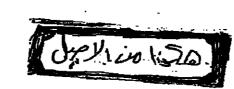
Peugeot increases profits to £30.5m

Peugeot Motor, the Coventrybased car maker, increased its the French franc helped Peugeot profits sixfold to £30.5m last year as production reached record levels and its share of the UK car market rose, writes with the table of the UK car market rose, writes Michael Harrison.

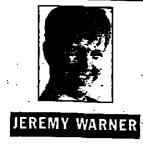
company delivered a vote of confidence in its UK operation by apnew model this month. The car, a replacement for the 205, will go into production at Coventry late next year alongside the 306.

In the winder this mount. The var, a replacement for the 205, will go to reach 90,000 against 85,751 last year – of which just under one-third were exported.

The strength of stering against to sell more cars last year with profit - its highest since 1991 -The profits compare with the was the improved competitive-174m that the entire Peugeot group earned in 1996 and help explain why the French parent managing director, said he expected to increase sales further this year against a background proving a £100m investment in a of modest growth in the UK car market. Production is expected



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THE INDEPENDENT

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 $\mathbf{Jou}_{\mathbf{RNAL}}$

New Labour's principal problem over Europe

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health service - all vitally important national questions but ones which nonetheless shrink to insignificance alongside the momentous

decisions which approach on Europe.
Unfortunately, it is also the issue our leading politicians least like to talk about. So I went along to a press awards ceremony earlier this week at which Tony Blair was speaking hop-ing to put to him this question. Did he really believe all that Eurosceptic, jingoistic dap trap he had written in the Sun that morning, where he had talked of "slaying the dragon" of a European superstate? Or was his position more accurately reflected in what he says privately to the pro-Europe business lobby that he is broadly in favour of monetary union and wants Britain to be a part of it? I never got my chance, for after a few pub-

licity shots with an eight pint glass of Guinness, which was sponsoring the event, he was monopolised for the rest of lunch by Sir David English, former editor of the Daily Mail and now chief executive of Associated Newspapers. The two seemed to be getting on like a house on fire. But if Mr Blair was hoping to persuade Sir David that the Mail too should back New Labour, he had

By the end of the week the Mail had rounded up a group of business leaders to fire vative Party election strategy normally adorns the letters page of the *Times*. Whether it was Rupert Murdoch's support for Mr Blair or something else, this time round the letter has been placed with the *Mail*.

They were the usual suspects; Lord Hanson (Hanson ple), John Neill (Unipart), Sir Stanley Kalms (Dixons), Sir Graham Kirkham (DFS Furniture), Christopher Miller (Wassel), effected, etc. But their message was a slightly different one. Both parties claim to advocate an enterprise economy, they rightly point out. So which party should people trust best to pursue enterprise poli-cies? Clearly not Labour, they say, because though it claims to be a convert to the cause of free market economics, it supports the EU Social Chapter and the minimum wage. You just cannot trust Labour, was their message.

This was also Mr Blair's theme at the press lunch - not Europe itself, you understand (far too sensitive a subject, that one), but New Labour's Achilles' heel, the idea that it is unprincipled and would do and say almost anything to achieve power. As you might expect, Mr Blair was articulate and compelling in challenging the charge.

All the same, the evidence rather points the

other way. I come at the perception not from the anti-European stance of the Mail's business leaders, but from a pro-European stance.

manifestations of this tendency.

Publicly Mr Blair says what he thinks the electorate wants to hear; privately he says something different. I was chatting to one leading City supporter of the single currency recently (yes, there are a few) who was so incensed by Mr Blair's public position on Europe that he accused the Labour leader of "betrayal". Intemperate language like this is rare among such people. But he was right. It is not just old Labour that feels betrayed by the New. Judged by Mr Blair's public comments, there may now be as little to chose between the two main parties on Europe, other than the social policies complained of

by the Mail's businessmen, as everything else. We must continue to presume that this is not the case, that Mr Blair is only saying what he thinks necessary to win. But if he is, then he can hardly complain about being thought unprincipled. It is vitally important for the future prosperity of this country and the enterprises that make it up, that Britain continues to play a full role in Europe including, if necessary, committing at the earliest possible date to the single European currency.

The business community is a many-headed beast which rarely speaks with one voice. But talk to Britain's leading multinationals, its world class companies, and they will generally agree with this view. Andrew

or business, there really is only one issue in this election – Europe. Pensions.

off the customary "reds under the bed" presume in this election – Europe. Pensions.

off the customary "reds under the bed" presume in this election – Europe. Pensions.

off the customary "reds under the bed" presume in this election – Europe, as aired in this election, chairman of Barclays, is surely through the City to just about everyone who election campaign at least, is just one of the manifestations of this tendency.

Now look here, I was told. You must while the pound is so high. What he seems the letters page of the Times. Whether it was told this stuff put out by Melnot to appreciate, however, is that if the markets thought the pound would definitely be in, then sterling would weaken and the

problem would evaporate.

The future is not in "slaying" Europe, but in taming the dragon and making it dance

Tobody who reads these columns could have been left in much doubt about our position on Andrew Regan's bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society. Not to put too fine a point on it, we have believed and said right from the start that the whole thing stinks. Only our lawyers have prevented us from using the word "dishonest" to describe it before. Thanks to Mr Justice Light. man we are now freed from any such

None of this has stopped Mr Regan and those associated with him from trying to persuade us otherwise. Of all the calls I've received in this hopeless endeavour, the most astonishing came yesterday from the public relations company representing Travers Smith Braithwaite. This was the City law firm which advised Hambros on a bid which involved documents plundered from the CWS and subsequently "cascaded" | selves or their clients.

cared to take a peep.

Now look here, I was told. You must understand that all this stuff put out by Melmoth and Keelan is just a distraction, a sideshow from the major issue. Which is what, I asked? The appaling underperfor-mance of the CWS, the desperate need to

do something about it.

Excuse me, but who, apart from those who hoped to profit from it, could give a damn about the underperformance of the Co-op? The CWS is a mutually owned institution not answerable to shareholders or their disciplines. The attempt to make it so was not undertaken out of any great sense of public interest or purpose, but merely for the sake of a fast buck at someone else's

expense.
The main issue here is nothing to do with the underperformance of the Co-op, which is a complete irrelevance. It is to do with the the fact that in the search for new sources of income and profit, scant regard was paid to normally accepted commercial rules and practices. Just who was to blame and to what extent will have to await the judgement of regulators. But no amount of complaining about the Co-op's performance can distract from the fact that Hambros and a large number of other top drawer City firms failed to ask the right questions either of them-

Boom fuels demands for tax or rate rises

Economics Editor

Britain is booming as the Conservatives claim, the latest figures for national output suggested yesterday. But the rapid growth recorded by the last official statistics due before the general election led to calls for an immediate rise in taxes or interest rates.

City economists were highly sceptical about John Major's claim yesterday that his Government had broken the cycle of boom followed by bust. "The failure to raise either taxes or interest rates is the political business cycle gone mad," said ; David Bloom at James Capel. A growing number of analysts

favour tax increases in a postelection Budget because an increase in base rates might drive the strong pound even higher.

The 17 per cent exchange rate rise since last autumn has tilted the balance of growth towards consumer spending and away from exports. The boom is also centred on the South-east and industries like financial services.

"For the first time in 20 years some good old-fashioned Labour policies are exactly what the economy needs. A few extra pounds on the mortgage don't stop highly paid people buying dinner at Quaglinos." said Simon Briscoe, an economist at investment bank Nikko. "If there were ever a good economic case for redistributing in-

comes through tax, it is now." While business organisations have also started to demand tax increases as opposed to higher interest rates, some economists still think higher horrowing costs are needed to cool the

"You can't tinker with taxes to fine tune the business cycle, and it is the easiest thing in the world to reverse an interest rate

at Morgan Stanley. All the experts agree that whoever is chancellor after the election will need to tighten the

increase if exports slow too

sharply," said Kevin Gardiner

reins of policy swiftly.

Philip Shaw, chief economist at Union, predicted that any improvement in the Tories' standing in the polls this week would unnerve the markets. "That | would make it more likely that we would get a hung parliament. with a government that could not take unpopular decisions." Yesterday's figures for gross

domestic product, the broadest measure of economic activity. showed a 1 per cent increase in the first quarter of this year. It reached a level 3 per cent higher than a year earlier. This was the fastest growth for two years. Service sector output in-

creased by 1.2 per cent during the quarter, and 3.9 per cent year on year. Business services, including accountancy and consultancy. continued to show the highest growth according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Finance, communications and catering also grew strongly.

But the ONS also indicated that industrial production grew at broadly the same rate as the previous quarter, which implies that its biggest component, manufacturing output, picked up despite the strong pound.

With earnings growing faster, tax cuts this month and building society share handouts starting, GDP growth is likely to accelerate. Sterling's impact on exports is not expected to become severe until next year.



Not grounded: Despite allowing for a £53m hit on profits this year BAA is confident Heathrow's Terminal 5 will be approved BAA accounts for T5 delays

Michael Harrison

The airports operator BAA yesterday denied that it was concerned about Terminal 5 being blocked after it announced changes in accounting policy in connection with the £1.5bn project. The company said it had

decided to stop capitalising interest on the project in light of delays in gaining approval for T5. The move will result in a £40m exceptional charge for the year just ended. Together with the £13m interest charges incurred on the project this year. the total hit on BAA profits will be £53m.

However, BAA's finance director, Russell Walls, rejected

suggestions that the change in policy reflected worries that the marathon planning inquiry into T5 might come down against BAA.

'It's not a lack of confidence on our part. It's just that with the delay the capitalised interest is becoming 30 per cent of the total amount spent and it is compounding all the time."

The inquiry began in 1995 and BAA had originally expected a government decision to have been reached by now. However, the inquiry is not now expected to end until mid-1998 because of the level of opposition voiced by environmentalists and local residents. This means that a final

decision is unlikely to be

reached before 2000. The inspector is expected to take a year to write his report and then it will be studied for at least six months by the Departments of Transport and the Environment before a

Up to the end of last year BAA had spent £178m on preparatory work on T5 of which £49m was capitalised interest. Although interest will no longer be capitalised, the ongoing development costs, running at £30m a year, will continue to be capitalised. BAA said it would resume capitalisation of interest if and when planning permission was

granted. BAA announced earlier this

week that British Airways and its alliance partners would, subject to planning approval become the new occupants of T5. BAA says that without the new terminal it will not be able to cope with the increase in demand for air travel in the South-east. It claims that traffic levels at the three London airports will double between now and 2013. Although Gatwick and Stansted will continue to grow, BAA says it will only be able to meet demand if its gets the go-ahead for T5, which

lion passengers. Last year the three London airports handled 85.6 million passengers, of whom 56 million went through Heathrow.

will have a capacity of 30 mil-

IN BRIEF

Japan shuts Nissan Mutual Life

Nissan Mutual Life Insurance, Japan's 16th-largest life insurer. has been shut down by the regulatory authorities. The company was ordered to stop selling new policies immediately, making it the first insurer closed by the government in more than a half century. Its 1.2 million policies will be managed by a custodial institution, with Nissan Mutual paying benefits on them to the extent it can. The shutdown is another example of the Ministry of Finance moving decisively to clean up problems throughout the country's financial system, including regional banks, credit co-operatives, insurers, large banks, and so-called non-bank finance companies. A weak link in one of Japan's most troubled industries, the closure of Nissan Mutual is similar to that of Hanwa Bank. The troubled regional bank was ordered closed last November by the Ministry in the first shutdown of a bank in more than 50 years. Nissan Mutual, with more than 4,000 employees in 82 offices, closed its doors with liabilities outstripping assets by about 10 per cent.

David Abell's reputation under attack

Thomas Jourdan, the Corby trouser press consumer products group, launched a broadside against the reputation of David Abell, the controversial former chairman of the Suter mini-conglomerate, as it attempted to enlist the support of shareholders to defeat his motion to unseat most of the existing board. Since December Mr Abell has built a stake of 28 per cent in the company and it has emerged that the Takeover Panel now deems him to be acting in concert with holders of a further 11 per cent. He has requisitioned an extraordinary general meeting for next month to have the current non-executive directors and the chairman, Keith Whitten, replaced by himself and his business colleague,

But in a letter to shareholders, the company draws attention to the highly critical 1993 Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into some of Mr Abell's previous share buying activities. The inspectors' report exonerated him of any wrongdoing but criticised his "misleading and inconsistent statements and evidence". Jourdan claims: "Mr Abell's past record is controversial and unimpressive. He should not be allowed to take over your company. Mr Abell refused to make any comment on the allegations levelled at him yesterday. He denied any immediate intention to launch a takeover, but implied that he had the financial backing if he wanted to do so.

Regal booking at Country Club

Regal Hotels announced its third big acquisition in two years with a £64.5m deal to acquire 13 hotels under the Country Club brand name from Whitbread. The latest move brings to £211m the amount Regal has spent on large acquisitions since April 1995. It is being part-financed through a £36.6m placing and one-for-five open offer at 54p, taking the amount raised from shareholders to £122m over the past two years. Whithread gave Regal exclusive negotiating rights on the latest deal, which executive chairman Charles Vere Nicoll said was being done on a similar earnings multiple of under 9 to last year's acquisition of 60 hotels from Forte. The new outlets, independently valued at £64.7m, will take Regal's total chain of provincial three-star hotels to 95.

Harrison departs from Alpha Airports

Paul Harrison is leaving Alpha Airports, the in-flight caterer and airport retailer he has been chief executive of since the group was spun out of Forte and subsequently floated on the stock market in 1994, to join the board of Standard Chartered Bank. At the age of 50, after six years with Alpha, he will resume his long-term involvement with information technology and operating systems, leaving Rodney Galpin, the chairman and a former executive director of the Bank of England and chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, to take a more hands-on role until a successor is appointed. The Standard Chartered connection was pure co-incidence, a spokesman said. Paul Ashworth, the new managing director of the catering division, joins the board. Alpha, in which the US Ch Mohamed al-Found is now a 25 nor count back. Mohamed al-Fayed is now a 25 per cent shareholder, also published results showing a drop in annual pre-tax profits from £20.6m nutes to on to £7.8m.

Capital goes on £147m shopping spree

Capital & Regional Properties is buying a portfolio of five in-town shopping centres from clients of Grosvenor Asset Management for a total of £147m. The company said the deal would increase the value of its gross property assets by almost 60 per cent from £248m to £395m. The shopping centres being acquired are Liberty II Shopping Centre, Romford; Selborne Walk, Walthamstow. 5, 13 A costn (1) 13 Costn (2) 13 Costn (3) 13 Costn (4) 13 Costn (5) 13 Costn (6) enlarged portfolio. Capital & Regional plans to finance the ac-

enlarged portfolio. Capital & Regional plans to finance the acquisition by a placing and open offer of 28.16 million shares at the 215p each, raising around £60.5m, and by £94m of banking facilities.

Euromoney raises stake in newsletter

Euromoney Publications has bought back a 15 per cent stake in the Petroleum Economist from its publisher, Nigel Bance, for £1.09m; 20 \$ appelmant in cash. Euromoney now holds 95 per cent of the business and has the right to acquire the remaining 5 per cent from Mr Bance on an agreed profit-related formula at a maximum price of £2m.

Euromoney originally acquired the Petroleum Economist news-Euromoney originally acquired the Petroleum Economist news are no traveled in SD letter and installed Mr Bance to run it. He has successfully walam Montal A diversified it into a leading supplier of specialist maps, books and training courses related to the energy industry. It made £1.15m sold in M Tabara its leaf or tax in the year to last September.

Martin Curried a new trust roless £4.5m

Martin Currie's new trust raises £45m

split-capital investment trust, the Martin Currie Income & Growth. with 45 per cent in income shares, 15 per cent invested for capital growth and 40 per cent in zero dividend preference shares. Income shares will receive all the income with an initial yield of 9.25 per cent at the placing price of 100p. Zero dividend shares will generate capital growth of 8.25 per cent a year compound over the 10-year planned life of the fund. Up to 40 per cent will be invested

Tobacco giants hit as FDA wins court fight

David Usborne

Tobacco stocks were being battered once again last night, after a US federal judge upheld the right of the government to regulate the sale of cigarettes. While the ruling was mixed in its content, it was mostly a disappointment for the tobacco companies. The companies had been suing the Clinton administration over its approval of new rules drawn up by the Food and Drug Administration to constrain the marketing of

cigarettes. But not everything in the judgment went the government's way. The court said that while the FDA was entitled to regulate the selling of cigarettes, it did not have the power to control industry advertising.

The ruling had been ex-tremely keenly awaited and is likely to play directly into closed-door negotiations now under way between the industry and its various adversaries on a possible \$300bn (£185bn) longterm settlement. Within minutes of the 60-page ruling's appearance, the industry and the Clinton administration vowed to

fight for the health and the lives of our children." While conceding that a government appeal was being launched, the President added: "With this ruling, we can regulate tobacco products and protect our chil-dren from a lifetime of addiction and the prospect of having their lives cut short by the diseases that come with this addiction.

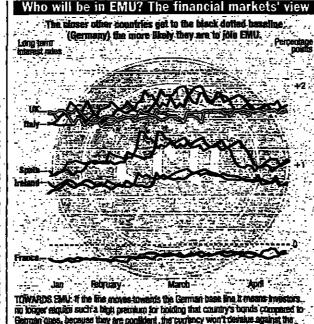
Issued in 1995, the FDA rules seek to impose various constraints on the industry, for example by banning vendingmachine sales, outlawing billboard advertising near schools and requiring shop owners to obtain proof of age (above 18 years) before selling cigarettes

to young people. Behind these rules, however, is the key principle that the FDA is trying to establish: that cigarettes are a system for drug delivery and therefore must be subject to regulation. That is the principle the industry so dislikes and which the judge yesterday failed fully to knock down.

I think it's more negative than

and its adversaries that could lead to the creation of a \$300bn smokers compensation fund is meanwhile being snarled by arguments over legal immunity. Several leading US health organisations as well as members of the US Congress have begun to voice alarm about what may

ica's two higgest cigarette makers and representatives of the 23 US states sung the industry.
At the heart of the talks is a . formula whereby the tobacco industry would agree to pay as much as \$300bn over 25 years into the smokers' fund and comply in future with new federal oversight of tobacco sales "It is a partial victory for the and barsh curbs on advertising.



The longer elegions such a high premium for holding that country's bracks companed to German does, because they are considered the turbacy won't deviate against the Mark-to other words, they think that coursey will be locked take a single currency with Germany in the year's time.

AWAY FROM EMD. However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have tables indution, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation aparts the Mark, then they will demand an edge premium for biolising that country's bonds, so the dna

The Bullipernieri aslavi aralysis from: Hildo Burupa, Palise Welshar, ABN Amra, JP Morgas, Demische Saluman Armihers, Geldhian Sacks, HSBC James Capist, UBS

Probability BARI state on time: Probability EUR I is delayed: Probability EMLI dever happens:

(57% last week) (23% last week) (10% last yearly) for membership.

Election triggers delay fears

The uncertainty over whether EMU would go ahead on time in 1999 caused by Monday's snap-election announcement in France, was counterhalanced later in the week by the European Commission's favourable réport on the economic prospects of the candidates for the single currency, writes Chris Hughes. The Commission said 13 of

the 15 candidates would qualify in 1999. It sent a clear signal that Italy would be excluded, saying its budget deficit would increase in 1998. The Commission's optimism

stretches credulity. The point is it would rather dilute the criteria and have a broad EMU go ahead on time than delay it," said Eric Fishwick, international economist at Nikko Europe. Polls suggesting party support in France was narrowing un-

settled analysts. The opposition socialists, although they support EMU, want to ease the criteria

conceivable," said Alison Cottreil of Paine Webber.

appeal against those parts that each side disliked. commented Roy Burry, a to-bacco sector analyst with Op-In a pugnacious statement, President Clinton said: "This is penheimer in New York. "But

> This seemed to be reflected in the market, where within minutes of the ruling's release. shares in Philip Morris dipped \$2 to \$39.625, while RJR abisco lost \$1.50 to \$30.125. The search for a truce between the US tobacco industry

emerge from secret talks begun three weeks ago between Amer-

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

what probability they placed on EMU starting on time. 23%

"If the new government opposes Germany on entry conditions, EMU will be delayed since EMU without France is in-

Investment managers Martin Currie have raised £45m for a new

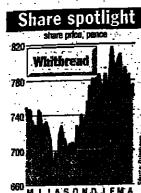
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increases to £30.5m

Data Bank FTSE 100

4369.7 FTSE 250 -16.9 4500.5 FTSE 350 2143.0 -9.0 SEAO VOLUME 901.5m shares,

46,633 bargains Gilts Index



Prospect of a BAT swoop enlivens insurance sector

A frisson of excitement among thing indicated by BAT in the insurance shares enlivened a dull, uninteresting session with most blue chips once again taking guidance from New York. Lord Cairns, chairman of the

credited with prompting the insurance activity. He told the yearly shareholders' meeting that the group had an "open mind" over whether it should split into two - financial and tobacco.

giant BAT Industries, was

He said BAT had "no sacred cows" and added: "If and when we are confident that change in our corporate structure would both improve the prospects for our two business streams and create better value for our shareholders then we would not hesitate to

Although giving little away, Lord Cairns' tentative comments seemed to some ob-

It is widely believed that BAT would like to beef up its financial side before committing itself to any deal. Hence surances with Legal & General edging ahead 5p to 400.5p in often brisk trading. Commercial Union was another caught in the BAT speculation, im-

proving 5p to 661p. Stories of a BAT swoop on L&G, CU or another insurance target have often swept through the market in the

There is little doubt the industry is aware of its vulnerability. The creation of Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance is the most prominent defensive move yet as the insurance industry regroups to ward off the threat of predatory strikes.

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

the futures market and hesitancy in New York were largely responsible. The market is resigned to an interest rate increase soon after the election. GDP figures strengthened the

dearer money fear. Waters splashed higher with Merrill Lynch making opti-mistic noises and signs Deutsche Morgan Grenfell had waded into the sector.

tion of other overseas insurers enthusiasm of Merrill analyst are thought to be circling the Andrew Wright. He expects waters to rise after the election Footsie ended 18.8 points and says: "Once the political lower at 4,369.7. A sell-off in fog of the election has cleared

the shares are going to do

He puts a 750p target on United Utilities, up 13p at 671.5p, and also 750p on South West Water, down 2.5p to 670p. Wessex Water is given a Wright price of 425p; the shares rose 9p to 384p. Severu Trent was also higher, up 13p

to 761.5p.

Whithread, the leisure

placing and open offer of or-dinary and preference shares as well as the issue of a debenture stock, held at 56.5p. Last year it paid £122m for 67 Granada hotels. The Regal

chain is now 95. bank, gave up 8p to 237p, re-flecting its involvement in the Lanica/Co-op affair.

Yorkshire, the chemical group, eased after admitting it was being hurt by sterling's strength and pressure on prices. The shares fell 30p to 212.5p. Emex International jumped

5.5p to 24.5p; the shares were 8.75p in January. The Irish minerals group has acquired an option on a zinc deposit in Kazakstan. If exercised it will issue 30 million shares and warrants to subscribe for 15 mil-

lion shares at 30p.

it had made a significant gas discovery in Thailand. The shares firmed to 2.75p.

Pan Andean Resources improved 5p to 60p. Talks are due to take place in Houston next week between the company Hambros, the merchant and the partner in its Bolivian venture, the Australian BHP group. In October Pan Andean shares crashed from 135.5p to 33.5p in a day when it disclosed its Chapare well in central Bolivia was not commercial.

Bruntcliffe Aggregates, where the Bardon gravel group, which is planning a merger with Camas, has 22.7 per cent, held at 29.5p. Bodfari, an unquoted North Wales gravel group, has increased its stake to 8.49 per cent.

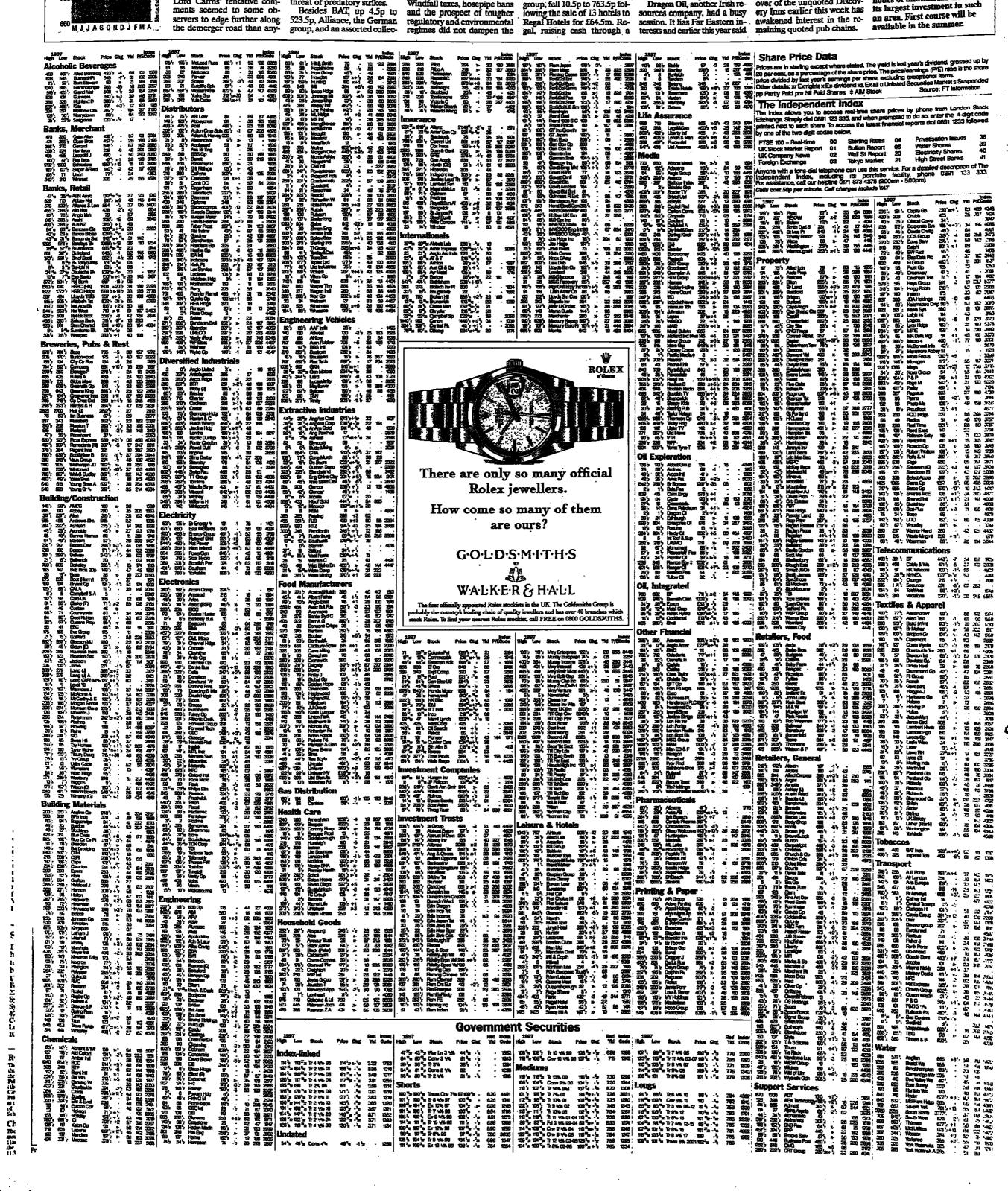
Grosvenor Inns, the Slug & Lettuce chain, added 11p to 206p. Enterprise Inns take over of the unquoted Discov-

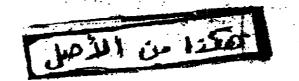
TLG, formerly Thorn Lighting, brightened 7.5p to 112.5p. Trading was busy, arousing thoughts that Was-

sall, the conglomerate with a 4.1 per cent stake, was flexing its corporate muscles. Wassali acquired its shares at around 93p. TLG floated in November 1994 at 116p. Its shares reached 181p before splintering to 93p as profits failed to match expectations.

Taking Stock

Struggling Epic Multi-Media gained 3p to 17.5p. The shares touched 105p last summer. In February it closed down most of its publishing arm and four of its five executive directors quit. But it seems to have clinched an intriguing deal with Abbey National. The bank has awarded it a contract for up to 200 hours of multimedia training. its largest investment in such





THE INDEPENDE

Taking Stock

711 to burnerh Thorn

It for tormerly Thorn testing, brightened 7.5pm

Leading was book to the control of the control

all, the conglumerale with a per cent while, was flein is called all muscles. Was all acquired its shares a round of the 11 G fluided in the called at 1160 h.

round yell, and illusted in east imber 1994 at 116p. in here, we had tell ploying plantering to 93p a profit arted to match expectation

Ten ugaling Epir Multi-dectar general 3p to 175p. the chares touched 105p by attention in Lebruary it dos four most of its publishing to sould four of its furges.

traing deal with Abbey & income we at the many to mental. I be bank has mand it a confract for up in 266

is contract or up to 200 hours of multimedia trains is largest investment in sid at area. Unst course will be to adable in the summer

that of bases

tion this a Pier De 16 of

<u> 25</u>

Williams makes

Hendry struggle

Snooker

draw level with Mark Williams

bassy World Championship in Sheffield yesterday.

more punishment.

He secured the first two frames

with a best break of only 49 while

Hendry opened his account in the

third with one of 38. The world

No 16 Williams went into the m-

terval 3-1 ahead after Hendry pre-

Clearing up from 59-0 down

the 28-year-old Scot, chasing a

record seventh Embassy crown,

opportunity on a plate.

sank vellow to blue.

After a session of elementary

A split has been brewing for a while, but it came to a head at the sixth hole, Ballesteros's 15th of the day, when he found the water on the left of the parfive for the second day running. In a discussion on why the ball finished in the water, the word "stupid" may have been used more than once. We both think, that it is better if we have a break from each other." Ballesteros said.

Gray, from Worksop, became the latest in a long list of Seve's lieutenants 13 months ago, but has hardly been raking in the commissions. Ballesteros had just two top-10 finishes in what was his worst year ever, prior to

this year. Five, or 10, per cent of nothing is still nothing, although Ballesteros will now earn his first cheque of the '97 European Tour on Sunday evening.

"It seems to me that Martin has been disappointed with the way I have played," Ballesteros said. "He didn't have much energy on the golf course. Today we had a disagreement on the sixth hole and we both thought

it was time to part."
Gray is not the first who has found it difficult to keep away an air of disenchantment in his relationship with the five-times major champion. His humour may have been tested, but at least he still has it. In Dubai, after Ballesteros had complained that an apple his caddie had handed him was too hard, Gray quipped: "What does he want?

A caddie or a greengrocer?" Apart from various of Scve's brothers. Nick de Paul, Dave Musgrove, Pete Coleman, Ian Wright and Billy Foster have borne the brunt of the Spaniard's temperamental genius over the years. Foster finally pleaded poverty in 1995 and Ballesteros had a short spell with the Liverpudlian Joey Jones.



Seve Ballesteros plays out of a bunker on the ninth at the Spanish Open yesterday

The run included a victory, his last, in that year's Spanish Open, but Jones was sacked after the US Open. Jones then sued for £14,000, claiming loss of earnings from the Caddyshack catering business he had been involved with and that he had a verbal agreement to work to the end of the season. The case was dismissed when it came to court, but Jones is still pursuing the matter. Ballesteros's nephew. Raul. who

played in the Golf Foundation

championships when he was at James also had his worst-ever school in Britain, will take over

for the weekend. At one under par, Ballesteros beat the cut line for the first time since he played in the Oki Proam on the same La Moraleja II course last October by one shot. Eight strokes better off was the leader Mark James, two ahead of two young tigers, Lee Westwood, who turned 24 on Thursday, and Thomas Bjorn, 26, and Roger Chapman at seven under. The 43-year-old

year in '96 but has found his confidence flooding back after rounds of 67 and 68.

Greg Norman finished at five under, one ahead of Jose Maria Olazabal. The Spaniard upstaged the Shark by holing in one with a seven-iron at the 177yard 17th. But Olazabal missed out on the Peugeot 106, as his countryman, Jose Antonio Rozadilla, from Pedrena, had already snapped it up earlier in the day. Olazabal did not mind

too much, but his playing part-ner was impressed. "He de-serves the car," Norman said. "It

Photograph: Reuter

was a beautiful shot."

■ Tiger Woods has accepted Fuzzy Zoeller's apology for racially insensitive remarks he made after Woods' Masters win a fortnight ago. "Having played golf with Fuzzy, I know he is a jokester, and I have concluded that no personal animosity toward me was intended. I accept Fuzzy's apology and hope every-

The sixth frame was more encouraging for the world No 1,

perhaps suffering from his sixday wait between his first and second-round games. Williams gained only one point and Hendry was on the road to provid pest vi

elle elle

The defending champion. Stephen Hendry, had to claw his way back from 4-1 behind to recovery.

The Scot's solitary half-century of the session enabled him in the morning session of his second-round match at the Emto reduce his arrears to 43. though he was indebted to Williams for missing a red into a middle pocket with the Welshman already 33-5 in front.

errors and missed opportuni-Hendry conceded six points ties, it was only the fact that to fouls in the final frame of the afternoon but managed to Williams's game was as littered with mistakes that enlevel at 4-4 on the pink. The abled Hendry to get back in the crucial shot turned out to be Williams' pot on the final red Williams beat the six-times which only succeeded in world champion, who has not knocking the cue ball into the lost at the Crucible since 1991, green pocket. Hendry took charge with a clearance of 20 9-2 in the British Open final at Plymouth earlier this month and started the first of their three up to the pink and was much sessions intent on inflicting relieved.

The world No 6 Alan Mc-Manus looked to have made the breakthrough in his second-round fixture with Lee Walker from Newbridge when he won the first three frames of the morning and was then in prime position to make it 8-4.
Instead he gave away 32

sented him with a frame-winning points in penalties and managed to lose a 66-6 advantage which allowed world No 189 Walker back into the contest.

missed the final yellow off its The final four frames of the spot and Williams gratefully session were shared, leaving Mc-Manus four from the finishing A run of 66 made it 4-1 and post and Walker, the first-round grand prix champion Williams had now won 11 of the last 12 conqueror of the world No 11 Dave Harold, requiring all but frames played between the three of the last nine frames at

Results, Digest, page 28

Fans snub Super Test

Rugby League

Australia New Zealand

David Furner and Wendell Sailor each scored two tries yesterday as Australia romped to victory in Sydney over New Zealand in the first Super League Test between the arch rivals.

Second-rower Furner and winger Sailor both crossed the line twice in the first half as Australia took a 20-0 halftime lead and then held off a fast-finishing Kiwi team in the second half.

Lock Darren Smith and scrum-half Stacey Jones, the tralian pressure. winger Daryl Halligan, the

Test debutant Robbie Paul and the wing Sean Hoppe, while Halligan kicked three

The match was watched by a disappointing crowd of 23,829 at the Sydney Football Stadium as Rupert Murdoch's breakaway Super League competition struggles to capture the imagination of Australian

first 20 minutes without scoring, but then ran in four tries in the space of 12 minutes, taking advantage of poor New Zealand defence and the hesitancy of stand-off Gene

rookie hooker Craig Gower score the first try after a superb also scored tries for Australia angled pass by his Canberra while Ryan Girdler kicked team-mate Laurie Daley and points came from tries for the utes later after concerted Aus-

Sailor touched down in the

29th minute after good work DAVE HADFIELD by replacement forward Matt

ated a try for Halligan to

Australia dominated the

Furner ran 35 metres to

Adamson and then ripped through the Kiwi defence again five minutes later. Jones scored New Zealand's first my with an interception after 43 minutes and then cre-

reduce the deficit to 20-12. Scrum-half Allan Langer opened up a gap for Smith and Gower then crossed to make it 34-12 to Australia before Bradford Bulls' Paul - who was outstanding - and Hoppe scored

tries to reduce the deficit. "It was great effort from our team, especially in the first half and that's what won us the game," Langer said.

Australia: Tries Furner 2, Saxlor 2, Smrth, Gower, Penalties: Gircler 5, New Zealand: Tries Jones, Halligan, Paul, Hoppe; Penal-ties Halligan 3. Attendance: 23,829.

PAPALIS MOORAKKR (USA) (17) (CD) K Morean 6 10 10...

New Zealand defeated Australia 17-16 in an Under-19 in- them we can give Saints a run ternational match played as a for their money.

Stuart Raper, the new Castleford coach, has a nice, gentle intro-duction to the task ahead of him against St Helens on Sunday. Saints – playing at Anfield in

a wholly admirable attempt to broaden their support - might have Wembley in the back of their minds, but they are still likely to show Raper, who arrived from Australia on Thursday, how wide is the gulf between the top and bottom of Super League.

I will only have had one session with the players, so I certainly can't promise any miracles," Raper said. "But if I can put a bit of enthusiasm into

final, Andy Haigh makes his first McDermott.

start of the season and has a chance to put himself in the

Tough start for Raper

The other Cup finalists, Bradford, are the only unbeaten team in Super League on either side of the world, but that does not mean that their coach, Matthew Elliott, has been happy with their recent performances. The Bulls scraped home

against Halifax on Wednesday, prompting Elliott to say: "That's three games in a row where we haven't played at all well. We won't keep getting away with it." Sheffield Eagles beat Bradford during the run-up to Wembley last year and Graeme

Bradley, the Bulls captain in the absence of Robbie Paul, warns that they could do so again unless his side lift their game.

The Bulls will be helped by

...A S Smith
...R Supple
...X Gastle
...X Breaman
....J Supple
...R Garrity
...Y Siethery

Sonny Nickle will test out his arm, while a decision will be made tomorrow morning on whether Robbie Paul should play a few hours after his return from playing for New Zealand in Sydney. Paul scored a try in an impressive international debut, but could not prevent a

34-22 defeat by Australia. Bob Lindner, lined up to take become director of coaching at Oldham, has arrived from Australia but will not be taking on an official role until be obtains a work permit and agrees terms. The captain, Martin Crompton, has picked the side to face Halifax on Sunday.

London Broncos have Tony Mestrov. Robbie Beazley and Scott Roskell back in action against an unchanged Leeds. while Tony Blair will kick off at to recover from a hamstring tear art Spruce and Paul Medley Paris. Given the club's search for in time for the Challenge Cup and, from suspension, of Brian new blood, the offer of a conhad both won in straight games beat Zaire on a walkover. tract is not out of the question. | to give the side a 2-0 lead which

Radford on a roll

Table tennis

Linda Radford continued her winning run in team events when she made her World Championship debut in Manchester yesterday and helped England to their first win of the competition, a 3-0 victory over

The 21-year-old from Dagenham, unbeaten in the Commonwealth team event last week, sat on the sidelines as England's women lost to Lithuania and South Korea. Yesterday, Radford, given

her chance by the team captain. Jill Parker, played with increasing confidence to beat Mariana Sahakyan for the victory that clinched the match. sa Lomas and Andrea

gave Radford the perfect springboard for a relaxed performance that masked her initial anxiety. Radford said later: "I was very nervous at the start but once I got into the match I felt a lot better."

England are now confident that they can avoid relegation from Category One, which consists of the top 24 nations. The Welsh team of Natasha

Williams, Bethan Daunton and Delyth Davies beat New Zealand 3-1 to win their group in Category Two while the Irish men - Colum Slevin, Jonathan Cowan and Sean Spelman - had their second successive victory when they overcame Sudan 3-0 in their Category Two match. Scotland's men - Ewan

Walker, Ian Stokes and Gordon

Results, Digest, page 28

MARKET RASEN

2.10 Tsanga 2.45 Hancock 3.15 Dash To The Phone 3.50 Imperial Vintage 4.25 Mazamet 5.00 Highbeath 5.30 Siren Song HighDeath 9.50 Stren Sung
GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).

Right-hand, sharp, unthilating circuit. Run-in of one furiong.

Course is E of town on AVII. Market Rasen station (Lincoln Grimsby line) Im. ADMISSION: Club \$12.50; Tatternalls \$8.50 (OAFs who are markers of course's hibitee Club half price). Siver Ring \$5 (Lublice Club OATs half price). CAR PARK: norme areas \$2. remainter free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Now Esprit (resorted) (2.10).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Golf Land (2.10) has been sent 199 miles

by	by L Lungs, from Carrutherstown, Dumfries.						
[2	210 APRIL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 1f 110yds						
L.		£2,375 added 2m 1f 110yds					
1	3 11031	CUR ROBERT CAR (CON ProGress 5 12 C)					
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3	344-1-0	EUROLIUM, INE. RESSEL (5) S CLERK 5 11 ? Mage R Clerk (7)					
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8		SMARM LEDI LI MONR 5 1U /					
ō	303.54	LEDELANDRI LOS DAS PARA 1114. VELLA					
10		SCHOOL ANTW (559) IV MARSONS 2 10 5					
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15	00P0	PURS VALLERSKA (25) Mrs Content 4 10 0					
Ιō	000	QUEEN'S COUNCEL (22) Mes M Mason 4 10 0 A 6 cause					
17	OPU-	TURBALL HOUSE (414) W Musson 5 10 0					

5.45 Fairly Sharp 6.15 Tenayestellgn 6.45 Scribbler 7.15 Percy Braithwaite 7.45 Johnny The Fox 8.15

GOING: tired (thood to Firm in places on hardles course – watered).

Leib-hand course, level with long straights, and a one furing run-in.

Course is on the A112 by the River Severn Wavenster (Foregale St. samon in a ADMISSION: Members & 12.50; Tanorsaila 50.50; Course St. (OWN 2.250). CAR PARKE Five; plone area parking \$2.95, BLINEERED FIRST TIME: Regal Pursuit 15.45), Old Redwood (0.15), Walking Tall (7.15). WINNEER IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNEES: digenstown (8.15) has been sent 211 miles by JJ O Seil Iron Skelion Wood End. Combrin.

5.45 HENWICK NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2.925

WORCESTER

Ch

	5500-3	DOVETTO (47) A Price 8 10 10	Mr R Tbgrekou (
,	0-40300	JAYFCEE (26) M Biglby 5 10 9	CuBa
	0-F2342	HANCOCK (5) (887) J Hetheron 5 10 9	₩ Warst
•	020304	AIDAR (7) () Begreen 6 10 5	
į		SHELTON ABBEY (46) J Wade 11 10 1	
ļ	12-0600	MARSH'S LAW (26) (C) G Kelly 10 10 0	
i		NOTE SPRITE (22) R Bar 7 10 0	
i	6065/-UF	THE WEATHERMAN (70) A Jessop 9 10 0	T Ké
	/00P5/-0	COUP DE VENT (50) Mrs V Ward 7 10 0,	P Healer (
ı	000000	RUBISLAW (26) Mrs. K Lamb 5 10 0	
		- 18 declared -	
1	mun weid	t: 10st. True handicap weights: Marsh's Law 9s	12th, Allie Sorie 9st 2
	Weatherna	on 9st 11b. Coup De Vent 8st 10th, Castlebay Lao	8st 9th
1	TRIC 4.1	Hencock, 9-2 Cash Box, 6-1 America Sall, 7-	1 Mochalder, R.1 Dec
	- Q-1 Cor	nbo, 10-1 Dantes Apour, Dovetto, Tip it in, 12	L1 Airier Cheline ANN
	t buires	16-1 Kinda Gruovy, Marsh's Law, Nite Sprite,	201 others
		• •	
Ē	76	UK HYGENE NOVICE HANDICAL	P CHASE (CLAS

15 E) £4,500 added 2m 1f 110yds E) £4,500 added 2m If 110yds

1/1645 DARRN PAST (8) M Karmond 7 11 10 R Garriby

1/425 DARRN PAST (8) M Karmond 7 11 10 R Garriby

1/421 TAPATCH 222 M W Eastedy 9 11 8 M R Thomson (3) 8

1/3334 REVE DE VALSE (189) £140 (9) R Johnson 10 11 0 N Johnson

1/4041P MARLOWAC (189) \$1 Crahut 11 10 4 P Perrett

542943 COPPER CABLE (28) (25) M Rodgen 5 10 0 M Ranger

45001P DASH TO THE PROME (189) (26) M Morgan 5 10 0 M Marston

1/5001P DASH TO THE PROME (189) W W Morgan 5 10 0 F Lendy (3)

1/5001P DASH TO THE Prome (12) What on 6 10 0 F Lendy (3)

1/5001P Dash To The Prome, 11-4 Tapatch, 9-2 Reve De Valse, 11-2 Daring Past,

1 Copper Cable, 10-1 Katowac, 14-1 Ball Tender

3.50 EUROBALE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500

BETTHIR: 11-10 Mister Drum, 7-4 Imperial Visit Petral, Chiappacel, 40-1 Cardinal Sincer 4.25 SANDERSON TELEPORTERS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

6.15 WEST MALVERN NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E)

- 6 declared - - 6 declared - - 8 declared - - 8 declared - - 9 declared - - 9 declared - 9 declared - 9 declared Light, 25-1 Lady Resident - 9 declared Light, 25-1 Lady Resident

7.15 THREE COUNTIES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D)

23,650 added 2m

44F0 TENNS 60D (HSQ 22) (50) P Bodey 7 11 10. R D

44F0 TENNS 60D (HSQ 22) (50) P Bodey 7 11 10. R D

44F0 TENNS 60D (HSQ 22) (50) P Bodey 7 11 10. R D

44F0 TENNS 60D (HSQ 22) R PSSF 7 11 2

01F 20J JOSHNA (42) (03 A PSSF 6 11 1 2

554-45 REP HE N HIND (25) (01 A PSSF 6 11 1 2

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£4,075 added 2m

5.00 TONY EDWARDS & GEOFF HUNTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 added 2m 4f Minimum weight 10st. True handcop weights Highb regretari recigi: 102 i certatap regreta regretari Se 1230. Georgi Se 100. Ale doi Berriole: 114 Highberth, 72 Route Ac, 41 Shining Light, 11-2 Rolly Pusson, 7-1 Cross Campon, 8-1 Marry Poulo, 10-1 Alleman Hornis, 12-1 Laine Box 100; 14-1 others 5.30 SPRING STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (CLASS 11-2 SEREN SONG (7) C Many 6 12 0 _Hr N Ker

20 declared —

20 declared —

BETING: 11-8 Sires Song, 9-2 Cut Call, 13-2 Capacif, 7-1 Route One, 8-1 Double Star, 10-1 Royal Mitr., 14-1 Maddle, Sweet Little Brisr, 16-1 Denring Dove, Spanish Secret, 20-1 others

7.45 UPTON UPON SEVERN NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £1,350 added 2m 7f 110yds

8.15 POWICK NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 3m

Bethell loses appeal against disqualification

James Bethell's appeal against the disqualification of Hunters of Brora from first place in last Saturday's Ladbroke Spring Cup at Newbury was dismissed yes-terday. The Jockey Club disciplinary committee found Hunters of Brora interfered with Cadeaux Tryst, caused by irresponsible riding by Darryll Holland "in that one and a half furlongs from the finish he went for a gap of insufficient size when it should have been obvious to him that such a manoeuvre

miss today's Whitbread Gold morning, the owners, Amtrak Express Parcels Limited, moved the horse away from Hender-

son's Seven Barrows yard. Jockey Tony Clark was susfailing to ride Dawn Summit out behind Polyphony in the Sparrow Hawk Maiden Stakes. The stewards asked Clark to explain why he appeared to stop riding the Ben Hanbury-trained three-year-old, who finished

before the furlong marker. But Cup at Sandown, has been after hearing his evidence and moved from Nicky Henderson viewing a video recording of the to Jenny Pitman. Yesterday race. they found Clark in breach of Rule 151 (ii) and banned him from riding on 5 and 6 May.

The Khalid Abdullah-Roger Charlton combination, who had pended for two days by the Carlisle stewards yesterday for Group Two Sandown Mile less Group Two Sandown Mile less than an hour earlier, were completing a long-distance double in somewhat humbler surroundings with the David Harrison-ridden Polyphony, who readily accounted for his six

SANDOWN 2.05: 1. DMANTHING LADY (Pat Sidery) 10-3 fav; 2. Phone Alax 12-1; 3. Silent Pride 25-1. 15 tan. 2. 2½. (R Harnon, East Everlegh). Tota: £2.9½: £1.80, £2.90, £8.00. DF. £11.10. CSP. £38.25, Trio: £313.40. 2.35: 1. ROMANOV (I Reig) 7-2: 2. Harry Wolton 12-1; 3. Kotal 2-1 fax, 6 ran. Nc. 5. (P Chapple-Hyan, Manton), Total: E4.00; 22.60; 83.60. DF: £26.50. CSP: £38.56. NR:

would result in interference".

52.60, 63.60, DF. £26.60, CSP. £38.56, NR. Desert Horizon.

3.10: 1. WIDGM (Pet Eddery) 5-1; 2. First Island 5-6 fax; 3. Bin Rosele 6-1. 8 ran, Hd. ½. (R Charton, Beckhampton), Totae £5.50; £1.30, £1.30, £1.40. DP. £3.80, CSP. £3.82, £1.40, DP. £3.80, CSP. £3.82, £1.40, E1.40, DP. £3.80, CSP. £3.82, £1.40, £1.40, DP. £3.80, CSP. £3.80, £1.40, £1.50,

11,1.4.5). Image: £194.51. Inc. toots.ch.n-ter's stawards inquiry, the placings remained unalized.
4.45: 1. UKRAINE VENTURE (W Ryan)
13-2; 2. Alcaladi 10-3 (sv. 3. Go For Salt 4-1.11.ras. 10. nk. IS Woods, Newmarket). Totae £7.80: £2.00, £1.80, £2.10. OP, £10.40.€5; £27.65. Thr. £1.80. NR Rody Danos. No 10 Rocky Danos (33/1) was with-dawn not under orders. Rule 4 does not ap-aly.

ply.
5.20: 1. GONE SAVAGE (R Cochrane) 8-1: 5.20: 1. SONE SAVAGE (R Cochrane) 6-1: 2. Library Society 9-1; 3. Broadchairs Bess-ty 5-1; 4. Eastern Prophets 7-1: 17 ran. 4-1 fav Biens Lad (8th), 1½, ½, 1½, 1½ Musson, Newmarket). Tote: £5.80; £1.80, £4.50, £1.60, £2.00. DF: £5.80; £1.80, £4.50, £1.60, £2.00, Thos: £24.90. Lackpot: £6,454.50. Placepot: £48.70. Quadpet: £9.30. Place 8: £263.91. Place 5: £36.25.

CARLISLE CARLISLE

2.20:1. TREGUERER (M. Forton) 4-6 fav.
2. Prix Star 20-1; S. Oh Nover Again 9-4.
8 ran. 2, 1%. (M. Bell). Tota: £1.20; £1.10,
£3.90, £1.50. DP. £22.50, CSP. £20.14. Tro:
£10.40. NR: Maiozza.
2.55: 1. HIGH PREMIUM (R. Wirston) 7-2;
2. Brockstare Gold 3-1 for; 3. Kesson Sabo
10-1 13 ran, Nr. 1%. (R. Reine), Tota: £4.80;
£2.20, £1.30, £3.90. DP. £5.80. CSF;
£13.24. Tro: £24.00.

RACINGRESULTS 3.25: 1. THATCHED (P Fessey) 10-1; 2. Quilling 16-1; 3. Senarter Charter 7-2 lay. 12 ran. 1/s, 1/s, (R Barr), Tota: £16,20; £450, £6,90, £190, DF; £73.30, CSF; £156,93. Those: £633.32. Tho: £240.70

£156.93. These: £833.32. The: £240.70 (pert word).
4.00: 1. POLYPHONY (D Hamson) 7-2; 2. Rare Talent 5-1; 3. Indigo Down 15-8 fav. 7 ren. 1½, 6. IR Charbon). Toke: £2.80; £2.30, £1.30. DF: £10.40. CSF: £18.73.
4.30: 1. LITILE ACORN II CARTON 11-4: 2. Night Mirage 9-4 fav. 3. Arlseig 15-1: 8 ran. 5. 1½, £5 Willams). Toke: £3.60; £1.50, £1.10, £3.10. DF: £5.00. CSF: £9.20. These: £77.55.
5.05: 1. GREY KINSDOM (D Memagn) 11-4 f fav: 2. Arlseig 9-1; 3. Winter Scout 16-1; 4. Nid Ony (20-1); 15 ran. 11-4 f fav. 54.00; £2.20, £2.20, £3.80, £5.20. DF: £24.80, CSF: £30.59. Threast £37.84.43. The: £357.10. Placespot: £15.70. Quantipot: £15.90.

PERTH

PERTH
2.10: 1. BRECON (P Nhen) 7-4 km; 2. Sadder's Realm 4-1; 3. Double Agent 3-1, 7 rm. 4, shi-d. (W Mur). Tota: £2.40; £2.60; £2.60. CF: £7.82; 2.46: 1. FALLELSEFALS (W Dowling) 7-2 km; 4, shi-d. (W Mur). Tota: £2.40; £1.60. £2.60. CF: £7.82; 2.46: 1. FALLELSEFALS (W Dowling) 7-2 km; 2, sandrift 10-1; 3. Skane River 20: £1.20; £3.30; £4.50, £2.20. DF: £2.93.0. CF: £3.30.9. Incest: £585.19. Tota: £4.20; £2.20; £3.30; £4.50; £2.20. DF: £2.93.0. 3.15: 1. UNGUDED MESSILE (R DI PRODO): 1.5 km; £1.20. DF: £1.40. CSF: £1.63. 3.50: 1. TEELAYNATICH (S 18)406 6-1; 2. Fairelaise 25-1; 3. Reach The Glouds: £1.20. DF: £1.40. CSF: £1.65. 15.70. DF: £2.10. DF: £1.150. CSF: £1.25. 16. Tricast: £2.176.31. Tro: rot upon. 4.20; 1. MALTA MAN (A S Smith) 7-1; 2. Solomon's Descere 2-9 km; 3. Wester Court 65-1. 4 ran, 2½, 6st. (P Croestrough). Totae: £1.00. DF: £2.00, CSF: £3.86, 4.55: 1. LORD POROSRO (C child) 3-1 km; 2. Time Warrior 14-1; 3. Westerwood 16-1. 13 ran, 3, 2½. (P Mornteth Rosesuell). Totae: £4.30; £2.00, £4.00, £4.70. DF: £3.50. CSF: £4.400, fix: £209.30. 5.26: 1. UGHT THE HUSE (C O'Dhyen) 6-4 fax: £2.10; £1.00; £2.00, £4.00. DF: £3.70. CSF: £6.83. Yho: £1.50. Placepot: £5.33. 30 (part won; pool of £292.48 carmed torward to Sendown today).

Place 6: £451.23, Place 5: £269.54,

ASCOT

5.30: 1. GARRYLOUGH (Mr C Barner) 6.1:
2. Drumeutilen 10-1: 3. Harristown Lady 20.1:
11. ran. 11-4 tay Meriras Deam. 2.5: 10 Cam dotto: Tote £65: 50: 17.0, £2.20: 50: 50-50. DF: £24.60. CSF: £53.38. Tricast: £553.57. Tricast: £553.58. Nr. Rescota Gold.
6.00: 1. MONNALE PORTE (1. 4:pr.ch 8-1: 2. Darakshan 4-1: 3. Markus 12: 1. 9 ran. 5: 2 fay Sendus, 1%, Int. U Adomit, Tothe £8.40: £2.10. £2.20. £2.50. £2.50. CSF. £29.50. CSF. £29.50. CSF. £27.05. Thicss; £351.07. Tric: £58.20. 6.30: 1. BOOTS N ALL; IB Fertions 11: 10 fax: 2. Carchinal Rule 11: 2: 3. Spring Yo Groy 7: 1. 7. 4. 7 ran. (G Batding). Tote: £2.70: £1.70, £2.50. DF: £4.20. CSF: £6.43. ASCOT

5.46: 1. THEME ARENA () WARM H. 15 (a):
2. Daydreem Bellevet 20-1; 3. Witherlay 7.1; 12 ren. 8, 3. (ht Pape), Totae 1; 40, (17.70, 14.30, E1.70, Dr. £13.70, CSF, £15.57 fra:
£25.50, e.15: 1. Qutte A RAN (5 Muchold & G. lay;
2. Herbert Buchasen 6-4; 3. Houghton 9: 4
4 ren. 16, 25. (5 Brookshaw), Totae (1 l. h) (4):
£1.10, CSF, £2.12. LUDLOW

TAUNTON 5.35: 1. ATH CHEANNAITHE (Ab J. Mar.) 1. 6 fav. 2. 61 Moss 7-1. 3. Irish Dominion 14. 1.5 fav. 11. 13. () No.del. Tole: 1.1-ki, 71. a. 1.2.60, DF: £3.40, CSF: £5.08 MP: Impundi Location for season 6-1: 3. Against The Choice 6.05: 1. REET CADET IG Suppley 3-1 fm; 6.05: 1. REET A Reason 6-1: 3. Against The Choice 7-2. 9 ran. 7, 7, 1. th Proc. Total (3.16: 1) fm; 62.20, 61.80, DF; 610.60, CSF; 620 ret in cash 658.74. Tho: 68.20.

* THE INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES HENLYS

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THE INDEPENDE

McGregor provides best value

Racing

remark to pocket with the For the 41st time since Whitbread came up with the ingenious and revolutionary notion of paying to advertise via a sporting event, the biggest and most rancous crowd of the sea-son will gather at Sandown this afternoon for the National Hunt season's last roll of the dice. Or then again, maybe they will study the field in the morning papers and decide to head off to the garden centre instead, since the latest renewal of the Whitbread Gold Cup may well be the weakest in its long. and generally glorious, history.

It will be one of the smallest too, with just nine runners going to post, and while a simi-larly reduced field once chased the beer money back in the 60s, there was at least a horse called Arkle to give the racegoers value for money. This year they will have to make do with Barton Bank, who has admittedly finished second in the Gold Cup and won the Martell Cup at Aintree on his last two starts. but remains an ageing and, when it comes to jumping, wholly unreliable character. Beneath him are five runners in the handicap proper, two with an extra 81b to carry above their long handicap weight, and Tom's Gemini Star, whose very existence was surely something many punters were unaware of until today. He is no less than

43lb wrong at the weights. A relatively uninspiring contest, then, and yet still one which the Sandown Mile yesterday. is mightily difficult to solve. The problem for backers is that a convincing argument can be raised against every horse in the field, from the standard of their jumping (Barton Bank) or lack of stamina (Bishops Hall) to a disappointing recent level of form (Bishops Hall again, Feathered Gal, Yorkshire Gale). Avro Anson, meanwhile, has yet to win a handicap chase of any description and received a kick in the head during the Grand National at Aintree 19 days ago, the memory of which might yet prove to be haunting him this afternoon.

Clearly, this is not a race in which punters looking for value will want to take a short price about anything. An each-way alternative at decent odds is a much cumstances, McGregor The park at Sandown today will not Third (3-30) is the only realistic be open to the public.

choice. Gordon Richards's runner is 81b out of the handicap, and Richard Durwoody may well put up another pound or so overweight, but he does at least have some good recent form and is a sound jumper who acts on a fast

surface and should get the trip.

The card's second chase should fall to Kenmore-Speed (2.50), but it is the two Group Three Flat contests which will do most to bolster the feature event. The Thresher Classic Trial has not been won by a subsequent Derby winner for 11 seasons, but has still featured some useful animals in recent years, most notably Pentire, the winner in 1995, and Glory Of Dancer, second last year and then fourth at Epsom. On paper at least, this year's field could be a very good one, with Benny The Dip, the Royal Lodge winner, one of six very promising animals. John Goscien's colt.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Barton Bank (Sandown 3.30) NB: Ali-Royal (Sandown 4.45)

who also finished third in the Racing Post Trophy, is the form horse, but his trainer is going through a quiet spell and he may be vulnerable to Silver Patriarch (next best 4.10), one of two runners from John Dunlop's yard.

The Gordon Richards Stakes will also see a firm favourite in Ali-Royal, whose recent win at Newmarket was franked when Wixim, runner-up there, won Again, though, the value lies elsewhere, and NEEDLE GUN (4.45), whose recent battling second to Tamayez in Dubai was one of the finest performances of his long career, can spring a surprise.

The best race of the weekend, though, is the Prix Ganay at Longchamp tomorrow. Helissio, last year's Arc winner, has spent much of the time since preparing for a crack at the Dubai World Cup which was eventually abandoned at the last moment. The possible lingering effects of that strange preparation offer the best hope of an upset to his rivals, which include Pilsudski, Michael Stoute's Breeders' Cup Turf winner, Strategic Choice (Paul Cole) and Last Second (Sir Mark Prescott). better option, and in the cir-

Hurricane State, a French

class but the slight worry for

connections is that he has never tackled a mile before.

fourth in Craven Stakes, should

also go well, as should Paul Cole's Granny's Pet and David

Loder's Sekani.

Daumier.

Clive Brittain's Air Express.

Italy's best hope could be

Gianky Gioffry. He has won

four of his five outings this sea-

son including the Listed Premio

Britons invade Italy

British horses account for half of the 14-strong field for to-morrow's Italian 2000 Guineas, class but the slight worry-for the Group Two Premio Parioli at Capannelle, Rome. Peter Chapple-Hyam bids

for a second success in the one mile race with Humicane State. The other British contenders are Air Express (Brett Doyle). Granny's Pet (Jimmy Fortune), Handsome Ridge (Frankie Dettori), Poseidon (Richard Hughes), Royal Aty (Kieren Fallon) and Sekari (Kevin Darley).

SANDOWN

2.50: GARNWIN, not disgraced in finishing a short-head second to Greenback over 2m 3f 110yds at Ascot last time, remains a progressive chaser and can get back to winning \mathbf{o}

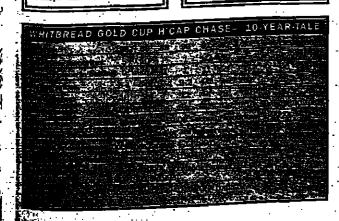
3.38: FLYER'S NAP, who beat Signmtracker by 11/2 lengths in the National Hunt Handicap Chase over 3m If at the Cheltenham fes-tival and will be fresher than some of this afternoon's rivals. Avro Anson had a very hard race in the Grand National, Barton Bank made heavy weather of beating Merry Gale at Aintree, and Bishops Ball to doubt. I seem Bank made Cale is a doubtful stayer. Feathered Gale



4.10: VOYAGERS QUEST, who ndoro last November, looks a use ful prospect.

4.45: MULTICOLOURED, a neck second to Proper Blue in a Listed race over 1m 2f at Newmarket in November, can do well this year.

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- Sand	lown	- 2.	-			Sand	own-	-3.3	10	<u>. </u>
Kome	C	H	7	7	!J]	Home	C	<u> </u>		
<u> </u>	11-4	0.4	94	52		Auro Annon	11-4	7-2	72	
Name Const	5-2	11-4		114	1	Barting Starts	7-2	7-2	72	#]
ije bjer	92	92		11.2	[Flyers May		<u>-41</u> 11-2	<u>41</u> 51	
Stately House	11-2	51		11.2		Haracos (Mar. The Thi	- <u>34</u>	7:1	61	
Petrier Bay	5-1	6-1	51	11-2	1 - 1	Yorkubba Bala	.81		84	
-	81	81	81	<u>61</u>	1	Pembered Galo	81	91	94	94
MI Of Bourse	33-1	334	33-1	33-1	1	Haryal Lad		12-1		
Tons Appelle	100-1	100-1, 1	00-1	50-1	1.]	Young General Star	1501	<u>00 i s</u>	2011	257
Each way a gue	_				1 1	Schenys qui	er fa o	15. PRO	512	3
C-Cool, H-Will					1	C-Cost H-Will	WHYT-	iage.	65,T=	1018



2.50 Garnwin (nb) 5.15 No More Pressure 3.30 FLYER'S NAP (nap) 5.45 Bishops Court 4.10 Voyagers Quest

4.10 Voyagers Quest

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in home straight on Flat course).

STALLS: Straight course - far stair, rest - heade.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5t; low for 77 & Ira.

Englishmed course, separate stiff 5t track.

Course is on ASOT, 4m S of Kingston. Exter station (service from London, Waterloo) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club 225, Junior Club (17 - 21yrs) \$16; Graedsamd & Parldock \$15; Park \$5. CAE PARKS: No private care for security reasons.

ELEADENG TRAINERS WITH EUNINGES: R Estation — 34 winners from 269 runners gives a success ratio of \$2.0% and a loss to a \$1 level state of \$24.7%; J Duniop — 20 winners, 95 runners, 21.1%, +50.92; J Gooden — 20 winners, 90 runners, 20.2%, -51.42; M Stouthe — 20 winners, 12.2%, -51.42; M Stouthe — 20 winners, 12.2% -51.42; M Stouthe — 35 winners, 125 ridge, 20.5%, +1.15.20; T Quinn — 24 winners, 178 ridge, 13.6%, -5.4.94; J Reid — 22 winners, 155 ridge, 11.9%, -5.77.38.

ELEMBERGED FIRST TIME: None. WINNERS: 10 THE LAST 55VEN DAYS: None. LONG-DESTANCE EUNINERS: McGregor The Third (3.36) has been sent 297 piles by G Eichards from Greystoke, Cambria.

2.15 PIZZA HUT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO colts and geidings 5f 6vds Penalty Value £3,571 ALPEN WOLF (R Hales) W Mar 8 11...

EMPEROR NAMEDM ran test in the lead to the two-furiong pole on his introduction at Newmarket nine days ago, linkshing a four-and-e-half-length lith (of sa) behind Balesed. The selection, easy to back that day, will improve a good deal with that run, while he has the best of the down in stall 10. And Par Eddery, who rode him first time, stoke with Bran Mechan's charge here. The Balesest stable of Richard Hannon run Prove and the debutant Rour's Pet, Prope was bettern at he register when that behind Occid Verd at Ripton. That was his first attempt and he will also progress. Hob Justice, a 14,000gm Petards colt from he Balding's stable, may do best of the newcomes.

Selection: DMPEROR NAHEEM

2.50 BREWERS STATE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS) CARCOLOGY & £20,000 added 2m 4f 110yds £13,705 -8 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Goldenswitt 9st 8th, Full Of Bounce 9st 1th, Tom's Apache

ns son. ETTIME: 9-4 Cacmelo, 5-2 Kensmaro-Speed, 9-2 Fine Thyme, 11-2 Stately Home, 13-2 Plunder Bey, -1 Galdenswift, 33-1 Fall Of Bounce, 109-1 Tour's Apache 996: Descry Cells 6 10-2 R Dunwoody 4-1 (N A Gaselee) 8 ran FORM GUIDE

Six of the seven under orders for this have won 24 chases between them this season. Stateby Home, the chief contribution, was equaling Camgaen Hill's record of nine wins in a season when gwing a fine exhibition of fencing to defeat. Land Afair's rece at Kempton next time
in blundered badly at the second but made most to the eighth - and ran unplaced to
Sparty Gayle at the Cheltenham Festival. However, he finished a highly creditable third behard the same neal at Ayr a vicek agin and could trouble the best of these teach at this track
wen with his 12st. All the same, this can be one for the north via KCHMARCE-SPED, who
may be a 10-year-old but has had a tremendous season with four victories and four seconds from his last eight starts. His last two wins were over longer trips but he should go well
over this stiff two miles five. Fine Thyme, despite a lack-luste effort in finishing a 24-length
fourth in Land Afair's Kempton race, must also be kept on the right side as he meets Stately Home on 1250 more terourable terms and has Richard Dunwoody's assistance. AmandHarwood's runner had looked a useful noved with three wirs (all at Kempton) and a sec-FORM GLADE tourn in Lates are a common and has Richard Durwoody's assistance, America, ly Honse on 12to more securable terms and has Richard Durwoody's assistance, America, Hanvood's runner had looked a useful nowce with three wins (all at Kempton) and a second over lences this season before that. Garrawin was on a fine-timer when inched out by Greenback at Ascot, while Spidenswift has also been running well and can figure off such displayed and can figure off such as a second section: KEMAORE-SPEED

3.30 WHITEREAD GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS CA) (Grade 3) £100,000 added 3m Sf 110yds £57,400 253221 BARTON BRANK (23) (C) (lås) Mould) () Nicholson 11 11 10... 125-346 ANNO ANSON (129) (B P Steren) At Carractor 9 10 10.... Jife R Hottal

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Dewid Nicholson, who had four entered at the fixe-day stage, relies solely on Barrian Bank in his bid to win this for the first time as a trainer – he rode Mid House to victory in 1967. Berton Barris scene as good as ever at 11, following his time affort when second an the Gold Cup with victory in the Martiell Cup Chase at Aintree – both mast under body's good young glot, David Walsh, He was a winner here three seesons ago and could go yis close, though the stone concession to ANTRO AIRSON might prove beyond his powers. Maurice Camacho's reveyar-old, a former smart staying funder who is at his beat on this fist, ground, an well to firsh sich in the Grand National despite overlamping and nearly toppling over at the first and receiving a kick on the head on the first circuit. Carracho would not be turning Airo Anson if the mine-year-old had not recovered from his Airtnee excitions. – Loan Ar Agrando won this after running third in the marathon in 1987, while Air Firsk won both in 1990 – and the selection will be happer over this severe-furing ghother tim. Behops Halling to very tired and was pulled up before two out in the National and Feathered Galle (1996 lish Garin National fiero) was rever going well after an early blander, being failed off when pulling up four out. Robert Airac, trainer of Behops Hall, also nurs Piyer's Rep and harveell Led. Piyer's Nap, who landed the National Hurt Handosp Chese at the Cheberham Festival, looks the pick of his tro with Tony McCoy booked. McGranger The Third was well beceen on his most recent run in the four-and-a-quarter-ratie McGrands Grand National but with the top-pier at this shorter trip and, as he jumps for fun, should go well over these tricky fences. He ran General Wolfe to a neck at Haydock on his perultimate outing and hes scored three times this term.

4.10 THRESHER CLASSIC TRIAL (CLASS A) (Group 3) £60,000 added 3YO 1m 2f 7yds £40,194 00512- YAVLENSKY (180) (V Schimmet J Dunion & 10

BETTING: 15-8 Bearry The Dip, 9-4 Besiege, 4-1 Voyagers Quest, 11-2 Silver Patrianch, 12-1 Yaviensty, 14-1 Parther Outlook 1998: Sandlane 3 8 10 L Detton 6-1 (J H M Goaden) 9 ran

This has proved a valuable Derby that over the years. Troy (1979), Henbit (1980), Shergar (1981) and Shahrastani (1983) all won it before earning Epsom glory, while Snow Kingrit (1974) and Shirley Heights (1978) were both second here before going one better in the Blue Ribend. Old Vic, the 1989 winner, ister tended the French and insh Derbys and Heilstein, Successful in 1991, took the Derby Italiano. John Gosdan, who has won four of the last five runnings, saddles Beasey The Dip, who was completing a hat-trick when garney winning the Royal Lodge over a mile at Ascot last September. He wound up with a triad Medalay in the Racing Post Trophy over the same journey at Doncaster. The son of Sher Hawk had BESISSEE two lengths actrift in third at Ascot but the latter finished only a length and a quarter behind him in fourth at Town Moor and, while it might be close, the selection can make the 480 he receives tell in the final battle up the hil. Beslege, a fit-in-order to Racing Post victor and St Leiger runner-up Armger, always looked the type likely to do well when stopped up in distance. With High Roller having austained a linear night, the Rambous Ouest cost looks Henry Ceol's No.1 Derby hope and is reported in excellent fettle for his rewhen stepped up in distance. With High Roller having austained a line e njury, the Rambows Quest colt looks Henry Ceoli's No. 1 Derby hope and is reported in excellent fettle for his re-turn. Silver Parthamb scored twice at biday's timp as a juvenile, the latest in the justed Zet-land Staties at Newmarket and he will not tack for fitness coming from John Dunlop's yard. Yavfensky, who is from the same stable, won in Italy (soft) last November and ran second there on heavy ground a fortnight afterwards but may not open denough. Voyagess Quest, who made all at Evry tooft its November on his final start, was also successful on a firm surface at Goodwood in September and should give a good account. Selection: BESIEGE

4.45 GORDON RICHARDS STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 3) C4 00030-2 NEEDLE GAM (224) (D) (Seed Manane) C Britain 7 9 1.
324111- SASURU (254) (D) (A E Opperheimer) G Wagg 4 9 1.
(2211-1 ALPROVAL (LD) (Seembley Stables Lai) H Cocil 4 8 13.
54302-0 RESTRUCTURE (LD) (Mann Nees) May C Cel 5 8 13.
32/115- BEQUENTH (291) (K Abdule) H Cel 5 8 20. 811 7 evo الــــ

8-1 Restructure 1998: Singspiel 4 8 10 L Detron 11-10 (b) R Stoute) 11 can

ALPROYAL, stepped up to nine furiongs for the first time in the Earl of Setton at Newmorket last week on his return, sow the mp out well and came home by a couple of lengths from Woom - Restinature agon of 11 - and that form recoved a handsome boost when the numer-up beat First Island in yesterlay's Group Two Sandown Mile. The ever furiong should pose no problems for the Royal Academy colt and he can supplement recent game. Bequeath, site Al-Royal from Henry Cecif's yerd, won his first two races in 1996, at Beverley and Newmarket (Listed) but fingped when taxouste for the Group Two Princess of Wales's at Newmarket in July. He has not raced since and might find this an inadequate trp, Sasarau won the last times of his five taces in 1996, the lotest in a Group Two at Decawide in August, and can ligate despite the long absence but the chief threat might come from the much-massled Neadle Gran. Give Britain's charge, a Group Two winner at the Currage last year, finished a length second to Tameyez in Dubbi times weeks ago and his list two races in 1996 were in Raly and Hong Yong, Tamasin was second to Lammarar in the 1995 Derive by but threshed tailed off in the Air tast October on his single stor of 1998 and has not been seen since.

Selection: ALI-ROYAL FORM GUIDE

5.15 MARRIOTT HOTELS HANDICAP (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3YO 1m 14yds Penalty Value £9,495 155240- RICH IN LOVE (207) (R.M. Open C. Open 9.7... MRSH ACCORD (USA) (23) (P A Leonard Mrs AMRAS (1911) (Mrs.) M Cocked B Hills 6 13. 56110- AMPAS (1931) (Nrs.) M Codem B Hish 6 13.

1213356- BRUDE'S REPRESAL (233) (Nrs. Jean Heagen) M Charmon 8 12.

12143-0 SHEER FACE (9) (0) (A) (or V Penns) W Mar 8 12.

10450- HALDWAR (105) (0) (Mrs. A Karel R Harmon 8 10.

313-2 RAMPER (101) (0) (Mrs. A Karel R Harmon 8 10.

313-1 RAMPAR (213) (Size Racing Clad) P (Die 8 9.

12 NO MOTE PRESSURE (15) (0) (Paul Green') N Wanter 8 5.

01: ORTELIAS (100) (I A is Wego R Harmon 8 1.

0-33 BURNING TRUTH (USA) (17) (K ADAGA) R CHRISTON 7 13. ## SECTION: 3-1 Irish Accord, 7-2 Amyss, 4-5 Maleks, 15-2 Repier, 7-1 No More Pressure, 8-1 Borning Touts, 10-3 Brides Reprind, Bitch Love, Sheer Press, 12-1 Ornilus, 20-1 Nationing 1998: Sorbe Tower 3 9 3 R Cachang 2-1 (Mass Say Kellensy) 14 ran

FORM CUIDE IRISH ACCORD'S three saces so far have been at six furlongs and the extra quarter-mite on this stiff track should prove ideal, Lynde Ramaden's runner wern in first time up at Pontefact; in August and he missed the break when fourth (of sox to Luma at the some course on his only other outing last term. He ran on after a slow start to firish third behind order outing last term. He ran on after a slow start to firish third behind order outing last term. Amyee landed a Cattns any other owing lest term. He ran on alter a since start to this name derive pools-on formal Lad at Lebester on his return and well be sharper for the rush. Amyes landed a Catt-enck mander lest September and a York nursery of October and his other race - when un-placed to Cylawoc at Newmaniet, egit deeps sharwands - was thought to have come too soon. (Mallots, tharf to Khossah na apercomest race at Aspot bot June, easily landed odds of 9-2 at Warnack and was short-headed by White Hot, at Goodwood on his only other ap-pearance - Sheer Face four lengths back in fourth but 10th better now. Pat Eddey; is an interesting booking for Nack Walker's No More Pressure, white of Richard Hannon's duo, Rapiler is preferred to Ortellus.

5.50 BEEFEATER RESTAURANT RATED HANDICAP (CLASS 8) £12,000 added 3YO 5f 6yds Penalty Value £7,492

-11 declared BETTHE: 4.2 Sinkop. Court, 9-2 Bisc, 11-2 Pressure Toych, 7-1 Cadosux Cher, 8-1 Paddy Lnd, MeBiscate, 19-1 Heatale, Myrmidon, Sabine, Vesent, 20-1 Samp Crack And Pop
1998: Desting Bisc 3 9 1 L Detto 11-2 g A Roking 9 gm

A debut winner at Lingfield last April, BRIKO was injured when losing by a neck to Smoke, Pere at Asoct the following month and ran very well after an 11-month break when lith to Supercal at Kempton (6) - beaten inthe more than a length. Geoff Lewis's charge can only improve for that and has a good draw, while Pat Eddery, who rode him to victory and last trite, is again on board. Treasure Touch was completing a four-timer when a length too good for Refuse To Lose in a field 19 at Newmarket, while Cadeaux Cher was one of four winners for Berry and Michael Hiss at Doncester on Lincoln day and should progress, to have the upper of the Cale at street, one. The last desirate in the part of the Cale at the trial for the progression of the cale at the case. he has the worst of the draw in strail one. The big danger — If he can overcome his low draw — is Blabopa Court, who finished strongly in third behind Brutal Fantaby (successful since) when one of the sucurities at Donoaster on the opening day after being squeezed of the start. Paddy Laid gained his single success so far over this stiff five last August and followed with a three-length second of 30 behind Mass Stamper in the Taltersalis Breeders Stakes at the Curragh. He should not be far away, despite having been off the course his third in A Exemptor in Statestone III (A).

Revome will return to the scene of his first defeat today for another Clar Revogue will return to the scene of his first belieff to any for another Char-sic warm-up. A week after he fell victim to Yalaietanee in the Greenham Stakes at Newbury he will gallop on the track as part of his preparation for the hig race a week later. Revogue will not be alone on the Berkshire track for the Henry Cecil pair Yashmak and Reams of Verse are also due to work on the course.

HYPERION 2.00 Knotty HBI 2.30 Kennet 3.00 Henley 3.35 Pendolino 4.05 Russian Music 4.35 Carlton 5.05 Dancing Queen 5.35 Rocky Oasis GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places — watering STALLS: Inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

■ Right-hand, undulating course, with a straight mile.
■ Course is 2m SE of city off AS. Lefester station (London, St. Panerus - Sheffield line) 2m. ADMISSION: 59 (OAPs 55). Free

TOTE PLACEPOT HANDICAP (CLASS D)

	200	£4,900 added 3YO plus 6f	
1	0013-00	PUSEY STREET GERL (10) M Booley 4 10 0 James Cook (5)	
2	66U26-R	SALORMAITE (57) (CD) S Bowing 699 S Webster	10
3	3243-00	JO MELL (26) T Easterby 4 9 9	19
4	11030-0	LA PETRE PÚSEE (35) (D) ROTSUMEN 698_1 Strumbill (G)	8
5		IGEDIEE LAD (22) (CD) A lones 7 9 7T Speaks	
ĺБ		MISTER JOLSON (244) (D) R Hodges 8 9 4S Dyome :	
7	1133-05	WEEDLAN'S WEIGH (20) (CD) R Hollesheed 49 3.F Lyach (S	14
l à	021400	SICHANTED GUEST (260) (D) V Soons 4 9 2	ŕ5
ġ	3F-1020	KNOTTY HELL (26) R Crops 5 9 2	26
10	56-0405	FRENDLY BRAVE (8) (D) Mes G Velency 7 9 2 O Pauller:	11
Иū	0001-00	9AYM (15) (CD) M (lefe 8 9 1R Street	11
12		MATTERNER (17) (0) S Bouring 4 9 1	
13		OGCI (160) (CD) P Malon 6 9 1	
14	000000-0	BERGOE (17) (D) Mis J Ramarian 7 9 0	12
15	232164	PERICLES (180) (D) M Johnston 3 8 10	: B
16	50-0620	SARIO (16) A Railey 489	鸩
		ROCKCRACKER (26) (D) G Mangarson 5 7 12 _8 Bardwell :	
l		- 17 deciared -	

BETTING: 5-1 Sufin, 6-1 Minimumia, 7-1, Friendly Brave, 9-1 Ogd., 10-1 Buyla, 13-1 Benzie, Knothy Hill, La Petite Fusce, 14-1 Ministr Joison, Per-leha, Jo Mell, 16-1 Midde Lad, Bockrascier, Westmarks Weigh, Enclavated Greek, 20-1 Sufformatia, 25-1 Passy Street Gift 230 EBF MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 240 5f 6 ARM AND A LEG (22) C Dayer 9 0 ______ J Stack 16 BLUE DESERT M Bull 9 0 _____ M Funton 4

BOLERO RID M W Essteby 9 0 REPONET (8) P Cunded 9 0 LOTIN BAY (28) P Heats 9 0 LOBUCHE R Harmon 9 0 WIOC _M Roberts 9 Qualen 6 RUZEN B Paling 9'0 ... Augusty S Dov 8 9... CONDER HELLS M W Easterby 8 9. LIBERALIS G Char MADERALO GILIBROSIA MADERALO GILIBROSIA BETTING 7-2 Laburde, 4-1 Caic Master, 9-2 Kennet, 11-2 Monopoly, 6-10ke Desert, 10-1 Zig Zag, 12-1 Arm And A Leg, 14-1 Positive Aic, Russes, 16-1 Aurigny, Latin Boy, 20-1 others 3.00 TOTE BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 3YO 1m 3f 183yds

450. RECOURSE (11) H Cell 9 7 A Medican 9
21.2 "HAPPY MEMSTRAL (3) M Johnston 9 7 D Holland 5
80836-3 DRIVE ASSERED (28) C British 9 5 M Roberts 7
01. HENLEY (158) D Loder 9 5 D Pesifer 3
530-3 MLTINAMI (9) D Moley 9 2 R Hills 8
3800-1 TASK (1888 (30) (0) P Cole 8 12 A Clark 1
054310 SMALLOW HEREPE (175) D 15 Scraff 8 9 S Drowne 2
516-0 CERTAIN MARIC (26) W Muir 8 4 M Hanry (3) 4
306- VENETIAN SCHIE (180) P Cole 8 3 D Quinn 6
11006: 11-4 Healey, 7-2 Hoppy Minstral, 5-1 Trails Chini, 11-2 Robourse, 1 Metabari, 10-1 Venetian Scene, 12-1 Certain Magic, Drive Assered, address Trails (20) P Cole 8 3 D Cole 10 P Cole 8 3 D Cole 10 P Cole 8 10 D Cole 10 P Cole 10 P

3	3.35	TOTE TRIO HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,10 added 1m 2f
		ZERMATT (28) (D) M Uster 7 10 0
2		DRAMATIC MOMENT (255) (D) J Amold 4 9 12 S Sander
3		UTIMOST ZEAL (18) P Hants 4 9 10
4		MOCK TRAIL (183) Mrs. J. Ramaden 4 9 9
5		GAIN LINE (26) Bob Jones 4 9 8A McGlone
6	60/3010-	TORKA (120) (0) P Makin 5 9 6
7	403062	FATHER DAN (10) (C) lates Gay Yelloway 8 9 2 G Dutilel
8	60055-4	PREMIER CENERATION (18) D Abutinoi 4 9 1.5 Websorts
9	113203	MONO LADY (26) D Hardh Jones 4 9 1
並		DORSKY THREE (243) R Hodges 7 8 13T Sprain
11		SULENA DANCER (16) S Knaft 4813
12		KINGESCASH (106) (D) P Boven 4 8 13
		HAWKUSH (226) (CO) D Motor 8 8 10 Stack
14	00/340-5	AZTEC FLYER (49) C Britain 4 8 9
~	-40-M-0	the same to the fact of the same of a person was selected to the same to the s
_		

2.35 TOURIST BOARD NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO filles 5f

4.05 TOTE LEICESTERSHIRE STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed Race) £16,300 added 7f 112211- WIZARD XING (167) (D) Sr Mark Prescot 6 9 6...G Duffield 6

4.35 TOTE CREDIT HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m 01316-0 PERSON FIND (9) M W Easterly 9 7... 062-0 DOC RYAN'S (80) M Ryen 9 2 34-45 WILD SKY (14) M Heaton-Elie 9 2

– 19 declared –

18 declared –

46 declared –

47 Superstar 7st Sto, isca

46 declared –

48 dec

BETTING: 6-1 Mondine Charger, 7-1 Kennemers Star, 8-1 Wild Sty, Mardene, Carlton, 10-1 Inclination, Puzziement, 12-1 July Jackson, Pension Fund, 14-1 Beau Roberto, Canton Ros., 16-1 Smart Boy, Doc Ryen's, The Green Grey, 20-1 Keepsake, San O'Tirol, 25-1 others 5.05 REDMILE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV 1) £4,200 added 1m 2f MEDIA STAR J Gostien 4 9 10... 0-0 NECHOL FIFTY (11) M Tomplets 3 8 7... _D Block 15 6 PURPLE MADZE (10) J AV SALER'S BLAZE (225) PRIMES 3 8 7...
 SPIRTAN ROYALE C BOBIN 3 8 7...
 TAMASA (250) M STATE 3 8 7...
 TAMASA (250) M STATE 3 8 7...
 AQUANTA (215) R 18700 3 8 2...
 DANCENG QUEEN (259) M Bel 3 8 2...
 DANCENG QUEEN (259) M Bel 3 8 2...
 TAMASA (250) R 1871 (15) P COS 3 8 2...
 TAMASA (250) R 1871 (15) P COS 3 8 2...
 TAMASA (250) R 1871 (15) P COS 3 8 2...
 TAMASA (250) R 1871 (15) P COS 3 8 2... OG THORNEY PARK (183) J Dunlop 3 8 2 WONTCOSTALDTEUT M WHENCO 382 - 16 deck

BETUNE: 7-4 Tannasa, 3-1 Machinelli, 7-1 Media Star, 8-1 Dancing Queen, Kunyali, 12-1 Taoraby Park, Locdon's Heart, 18-1 Nichol Filty, Spertan Royale, 20-1 Sedier's Blaze, 25-1 Transline, 33-1 others

5.35 REDMELE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV B) £4,200 added 1m 2f 11 0-0 SOLD CLEPPER (18) M Ryan 3 8 7 M Day 12
12 5 MUNARES (18) A Sewart 3 8 7 M RYAN
13 0 RATE (19) S Day 3 8 7 M A Day (5) 5
14 SAMBARDA P HAVE 3 8 7 M Godley 3 8 7 M D Holland 3
15 00- NCK OF TRIME (186) 1 Duntop 3 8 2 M T Synable 6
00- NCK OF TRIME (186) 1 Duntop 3 8 2 M T Synable 6
16 declared —
18 DETINNE: 10-11 Rocky Owen, 9-2 Bitting Timor, 6-1 King Kato, 10 Magnaria, 12-1 Get Thar Point, Nick Of Time, 14-1 Glowing Moon, 16-1 Lingent Reply, 20-1 Leathermock, Surbaron, 33-1 others

HYPERION 2.05 Finsbury Flyer 2.35 Going Places 3.05 Return Of Amin 3.40 La Brief 4.15 Banbury 4.50 Euro Sceptic 5.20 Harbour Dues

EUFO SCEPUC 3-20 Harrbour Dues
GOING: Good to Firm (watered). STALLS: Smight course & 2m
-stands stde; rost - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

If light-hand course. A sharp track with tight bends.
Course is cast of the city on Be266. ADMISSION: Club \$12;
Tatternalls \$8; Silver Bing \$4; Course \$2.50 (accompanied underlife free all enclosures). Call PARE: Car and up to four occupants in course enclosure &8; remember free.
RUNKERED FIRST TIME: Legal Right (5-20).
WINNERS IN THE LAST REVEN DATE: None.
LONG-DESTANCE EUNNERS: Harbour Dues (5.20) has been sem.
277 miles by Ludy Herries from Anginering Park, West Sussex.

2.05 YORKSHIRE IMPERIAL BAND SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1 m 2f STAKES (CLASS F) £3,500 added 1.m 2f

125025 NORTHERN FAM (19) M Tarker 5 10 0 ... Dem Mackown 4

4300-0 ACTION Micrison (22 (0) B Michain 5 9 10 The 13

0,000- ASSPOLABE (200) B Backer 5 9 10 I Figur 1 B

3453-0 DURRAMS FREST (25) Mes M Revelly 5 9 10 ... A Collema B

3453-0 DURRAMS FREST (25) Mes M Revelly 5 9 10 ... A Collema B

6050-65 TERN PAST SIX (15) M Ware 5 9 10 Dain Bibson 12 B

6050-65 TERN PAST SIX (15) M Ware 5 9 10 Dain Bibson 12 B

6000-0 SHAN DANCER (220) B Michain 4 9 5 S Righton (7) 2

1 C2026-5 SHES SHAPLY BISST (220) 1) O'Neal 4 9 5 Whence 6 V

2 O48-05 TUPPY data. (10) 11 Misson 4 9 5 Whence 6 V

3 D CLEM SHOP (8) T Esseny 3 8 7 L Charmock 8 - 13 declared -BETTURE: 3-1 Finchery Flyer, 4-1 Action Jackson, 5-1 Durgeons First, 11-2 Yappy Ghi, 7-1 Northern Fam, Tan Pact Skr, 10-1 others

SHARP PET D McCan 8 2 M Baird (3) 6 53 GONG FLACES (10) K kory 7 13 Martin Dwyur (3) 4 PETTE LADY P Bune 7 13 J F Byn 1 SYLWAH CLOUD C Bairbus 7 13 1 Channeds 2 — 8 declared — BETTRIG: 9-4 Ludy Moll, 9-1 Roldon Miraga, 7-2 Going Piacas, 9-2 Flower O'Cannie, 6-1 Filey Brigg, 9-1 Pette Lady, 25-1 others 3.05 YORKSHIRETYNE TEES TV HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 6F J Weeter 17
J Weeter 17
J Weeter 17
J Weeter 18
P P Murphy (2) 9
J Martin Degar (3) 18
Lerby 8 136 Poptat (5) 7
Decree McClet (5) 6 - 18 deciated -BETTING: 9-2 Return Of Ania, 6-1 Bold Gayle, 7-1 Double-O, 10-1 Mon Brane, Levelled, 12-1 Swift, Always Alight, C-Herry, 14-2 others

3.40 C. B. HUTCHINSON CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP (CLASS C) £9,000 added 2m 65110 BERLIM BLUE (2AB) (C) (RF) J Wests 4 10 0 ____ J Carrell 5 61530 HIGHET/MRG (198) (CD) G M Moore 11 9 12 ____ J Tate 7 310-36 DIRMS (31) (D) T D Becton 4 9 5 ____ W (types 250-1 TURNPOLE (LIS) MIS M Revely 5 9 3 ____ A Culture 3 - 9 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Slege Perilous, 4-1 Tumpole, 9-2 Le Brief, 6-1 Direb, 8-1 Highfying, Berlin Sine, 10-1 Adrese, Hore Comes Hostile, 20-1 Alvaron

4.15 YORKSHIRE DALES MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m 2f 3 BANDURY (28) J Water 9 0 J Carroll 1 6 DOUBLE ALLEGED (175) M Johnson 9 0 J Wester 7 0 FKDNL SAHBA (185) J Gooden 9 0 Dale Gibson 8

4.50 BBC RADIO YORK PRO-AM LADIES H'CAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m

0000-0 1910881.ESNEZE (26) (3) M. Crepron ? 11 0 Causly Munis 19 V 20000- MARIMANA (185) ? Walnyn 4 10 11 Miss S Sammorib (5) 17

BETTING: 1.1-4 Paint R Black, 6-1 Dispoi (tom, 7-1 Euro Scoptic, 8-1 Betzuck, 10-1 Knobblessessen, 12-1 Squared Away, Eastleigh, Return To Brighting, 14-1 Chariton lung, Harjaston, 16-1 Belles Gate Boy, Jongle Fresh,

5.20 CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN STAKES (CLASS C) £7,325 added 1m 4f 60yds 1 510:10 GREENSTEAD (201) (SF) Lib Costen 4 9 1 _______ J Carroll 4 2 11342 HARBOUR DUES (180) (3) (87) Linky Henris 4 9 1 _____ Routin (3) 1 8 40500 LEGAL RIGHT (25) P Chappie-Hyarn 4 9 1 ____ R Routin (3) 1 8 4 (2400 STAR SELECTION (25) J Marins 6 8 12 ______ J Warner 3 5 4206 KALLEY SENOR (159) R Amstrong 4 8 11 ______ G Center 2 ____ 5 declared ____ S SAR SELECTION (25) 9 4 Greenstead, 7-2 Legal Right, 5-1 Kaller Senor, 12-1 Star Salardies

HYPERION - 12 declared -SETTRG: 3-1 Dee't Worry Miles, 7-2 Mingle Fizz, 4-1 Foreing Bid, 8-1 Sharp Holly, 10-1 Primelta, Bine Lugana, 12-1 others 7.00 Blue Lugana 7.30 Chilling 8.00 Mental Asanythin 8.30 Sedbergh 9.00 Diamond Steve 9.30 Loch Style 7.30 STRIDER CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F)

GOING: Standard. STALLS: 77-& lm6f - outside; rest - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Eigh from 6f to lm 4f. £3,300 added 5f Physicand, left-hund, oral course.

Gourie is N of town on A449, Wolverhampton sintion Im., AD-MOSSION: Colb S16; Tattermills 16 (OAP members of Diamond Cash S4); Viewing Restauron, 528,90 including engance and meal. CAR PARK: free. 2000-52 PERFECT BRAVE (14) J Bailing 6 9 4 R Laysin 3 010330 Luttle Brak (14) (CO) P Barrs 6 9 0 J F Egon 5 V CAR PARE: free.
RLINKERED FIRST TIME: Picky Lover (7.00), Chilling (7.30).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Nonc.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Arule (7.00) has been sent 181
miles by Junie Poulsen from Telecombe, East Susser. 8 0 LITTLE PAPOOSE (149 19 Molection 4 8 11 | Membon 1 9 | Spisiers Schild | Lingh 3 8 8 | Channeck 4 | 10 | 515405 | CHILLING (14) Pape 3 8 1 | K Steed (7) 7 B

.....R Lappin 2 Fearing 5 B

- 10 deciared -SETTING: 3-1 Kelor, 7-2 First Malto, 5-1 Featherstone Lame, 6-1 Perfect Brave, 6-1 Palacegota Jack, 10-1 Silk Cottage, Little Teer, 12-1 others 7.00 SARUMAN MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 8f 4375 FORDING RED (170) Sir Mest Present 3 9 12 ___ G Doffeld 4355 FORDING BED (270) Sr Mark Prescrit 39 12. — 5 Defineds 7
00600-2 DORTY WORRY MICE (18) F Let 39 7. — A Châmer 9
425000- TOHOMTO (189) J Berry 3 9 8. — S. Mollmenth 4
600000- PROPERS ROUTHING (199) R Alwhraft 4 9 6. — S. Sanders 3
000500- PREDERT PRINCESS (149) A Hoty 5 9 4. — A MicClore 1.
003-63 JAMAIC RZZ (58) T Elimitation 3 9 3. — L. Clorestek 12
600- GOLBORNE (10) 2889 J Beding 4 9 3. — R. Lappia 5 8
005 RESRY LOWER (19) D Shew 4 9 3. — J. Frening 5 8

8.00 WARLORD HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 1f 79yds Octobro MENTOLASANYTHEM (172) (CD) D H Jones 8 10 O...C Reitler 6 50-4058 BENTICO (19) (13) Mrs N Mazaley 8 9 7 ____ 5 Senders 3 0-38110 CAPPARTS DAY (33) (87) H Collegidge 5 9 2 R Mailleo (5) 11 00-0230 BENGMARA (22) R Ingent 9 9 2 _____ A Michine 10 13-1222 SHANGHAI LE, (22) (7) M F-Codey 5 8 13 ____ F Norton 12

11 54-3000 erun-eru peren pere

8.30 FOLEY STEELS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added 1m 6f 166yds

5 52222 NOUVARD PHO (100) (CD) H FORWARD NEW (CD) H FISCH (2) 8

5 52201 RANDOM (NOUNESS (24) (CD) 4 St Regard 4 S D. F Figure 6

9 250-200 ROYAL CRIZEN (24) (CD) 1 Bottomby 8 7 10 ... Charack 11

10 0-03:100 BARBARRYS JENFE, (LD) (C) (BF) A Bally 5 7 10 ... D Wright 3

11 2150-30 ALL ON (ZS) (C) 1 Hottombro 8 7 10 ... R Modillon (S) 10 ... 11 declared —

Advisors weight 7st 10th. Royal Chizen 7st Sht. Bachard's Jevel 7st 4th, All On 7st Sht.

On 7st 3th. BETTINE: 9-4 Sadbergh, 3-1 Nordert, 5-1 Perple Spizzik, 10-1 Dark Wa-ters, Opera Buff, Pressier Dance, 12-1 others 9.00 STAR ENGINEERING SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 270 5f

- 6 deciared -ETTBRB: 2-1 Diagnosed Sizve, 3-1 Wilfred Sterman, 4-1 Misk Ticket, 9-2

lack-H-Jilly, 8-1 (amiges Bridges, 12-1 Carnation King

9.30 JOAN CHALK MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 7f

| CLASS F) £3,300 added 7f
| COD-152 SQUARE DEAL (FR) (18) (D) S Bowing 6 10 0 ... \$ Webster 1
| C-2001 DRAGONUTY (18) (D) N Listenden 4 10 0 ... \$ Limple 8 B
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| COD-05 PRINCESS EFISIO (18) (C) B McKelson 4 9 11 Hostund 19
| S-52006 SAMARA SONC (18) (C) P Mustry 4 9 11 B D Hostund 4
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All Mess: 1 M Hr 3 M Seles (US): Sonchez Vecano (1 Descenpor (US): (Croa), 20 A Coe mt; 12 K H Libled der (US); 14 B Send Perroe (Fe): 16 h All; 18 B Paullus (1 20 S Appelmans (1 : 20 S Appelmans II Munich) First rout body (Slowale 6-3, 1 allo (So) 3-6 6-1, it 1 Imposchild (Ger (Augh bt A Radul-ians (It) bt A Volkov II pentier (Arg) bt S D IA Alami (Mor) bt L Ar

ECH OPEN Singles wain to M Tabara IC: g (Aus) bt J Sanches (Fr) beut F Rong (Sp) (Sp) bt L Paes (Ind)



Wasps no longer the fall guys

Chris Hewett gets the inside track from coach Nigel Melville, whose side could clinch the Courage League today

Chilcott, the hired hitman of Bath's front-row union, would stretch out in the corner of the training ground dressing-room, crack his knuckles one by one with a sharp, staccato snap and lick his lips at the thought of the forthcoming crunch match with Wasps. "I love swattin' Waspies," he would growl, his West Country burr darkening with each syllable. "Waspies were put on this earth to be swatted."

Along with the rest of the 'They're not English rugby fraternity, good enough to Chilcott must now be acutely win the title.' and uncomfortably aware that Wasps are no said Richard Hill an longer a swat-table commodmemorably' ity; indeed.

were the mighty Cooch to swing a hairy forearm at any of the 1997 vintage, he would connect with nothing more substantial than thin air. Quick-witted, elusive and engagingly idiosyncratic, Lawrence Dallaglio's north London outfit are on the verge of completing the sting of the decade.

If they top and tail their championship bid by avoiding defeat at Northampton this afternoon, Wasps will ram a thousand different mocking ... punchlines straight back down the throats from which they issued forth. Cast your minds back to last September and you will recall the cacophony of contempt surrounding the new er-coach. He did not pitch up

t would occur twice a season, signings at Sudbury. Andy regular as clockwork. Gareth Reed? Too soft. Gareth Rees? Too fat. Alex King? Glorified student. Chris Sheasby? Glorified yuppie. Who's in charge there, for heaven's sake? Fred Karno? Well no, actually. Try Nigel Melville instead.

Remember him? Eighties England scrum-half, pace to burn, pass like a tracer bullet, plenty of grey matter up top. A hard nut, too. Yorkshire grit coming out of his ears. The cleverest signing of the lot, according to the

Sudbury cognoscenti And so it has proved. Quietly, Meiville has pieced together an oddball troop of bitpart actors and moulded them

into a precision outfit capable of baffling the best with the most spectacular variety show in town. As recently as a fortnight ago, sound judges were unwilling to accept the evidence before their eyes - "They're not good enough to win the title, simple as that," said Richard Hill of Gloucester memorably - but by four this afternoon, opinion may well have been rendered obsolete by hard, indisputable fact.

Melville won 13 caps (an appropriate number, given his many and varied injury misfortunes) as a Wasp between 1984 and 1988 before taking the



again at Sudbury until Christmas 1995, by which time his old club had lost the Andrew-Ryan-Bates triumvirate to Newcastle and were struggling to pick a route through the internal chaos that broke out as a consequence. Half a season, and a tough job interview later, he was installed as director of rugby.

"After the business with Rob and the rest, the priority was to hang on to the talent left to us, get some signatures on contracts and build from there. I'm not sure we could have stood another rash of defections but ironically enough, all the departures in the autumn of 1995 seemed to persuade the predators that there was no more flesh to strip away, that the meat had gone from the bones.

"So we were able to fall back

Greenwoods and Buster Whites. We knew we had good youngsters on their way through - Darren Molloy and Will Green, for instance - and when

it came to recruitment, we had very clear ideas on who and what was needed. And you have to say that Rees, King. Sheasby and the rest have punched their weight. "People criticised our recruitment in the front-five area but you have to remember that

tight forwards of the very first rank - the Martin Johnsons of this world - simply weren't available. They were either contracted up to the eyebalis here or playing Super 12 down south and I wasn't prepared to pay daft money for second best. The men we did pull in, like Reed and Simon Mitchell, have on familiar faces, the Matt played some of their best rug-

by for us. You can't ask much more of anyone."

Quite rightly, Melville regards the decision to shift all but the lowliest of home games to Chris Wright's Loftus Road as a step of enormous significance. The quality of the Queen's Park Rangers playing surface has not only helped the mule-like Rees kick goals from every conceiv-able angle and distance, but has also encouraged the high-octane running game instigated by the visionary King at stand-off.

Yet the hard work continues to be undertaken at bumpy, down-at-heel Sudbury, where Melville and his lieutenants spend countless hours rehearsing and refining an ingenious game plan that enables Wasps to both live on the edge and live within their means at one and the

and Pat Fox, a fitness consultant from New Zealand who, impressively enough, cut his teeth with the great Auckland side of the late Eighties, are members of the inner sanctum along with

the ubiquitous Dallaglio. "Rob and I have similar views on how the game should be played, of the possibilities that present themselves to a young, fit and ambitious side," says Melville. "He really is an exceptional coach and his recent involvement with the England Under-21s squad suggests that he is starting to receive the recognition he deserves. It seems to me that in the new commercial age, we need to develop a style of rugby that is both watchable and successful. Rob has been at the very heart of our move towards

Moya moulds clay into victory

Tennis

Carlos Moya led the Spanish charge at the Monte Carlo Open yesterday, beating the Wimbledon champion, Richard Krajicek, in three sets to force his way into the semi-finals. The Spaniard, seeded sixth,

changed pace early in the second set of his quarter-final tie with the Dutchman to win 1-6. 6-2, 6-4 and qualify for his second consecutive semi-final on clay after Barcelona last week. Moya will be one of two Spaniards in the last four. Alex Corretja, seeded 12th, humbled the Norwegian qualifier. Christian Ruud, 6-2, 6-0.

Moya said: "I slowed my serve a little bit at the start of the second set, because trying to hit too hard in the hist set I realised I was giving him chances to go to the net. It's useless on clay. You just need a dif-ferent mentality."

Moya, the sixth seed, has achieved his best results on hard courts despite being bred on slow clay like most Spaniards.

Krajicek is not a clay-court specialist, despite reaching the French Open semi-finals in 1993, and it showed yesterday as he relied too heavily on his serve and volley game and was far too impatient.

"I'm not afraid of anybody on clay," he said. "But physically I was not in good shape. I fell a little bit sleepy. I was just tired and I was rushing too much to finish points. It's just tough to play on clay. It takes a little bit of time to move the right way."

Not in Monte Carlo, but on his way to recovery is Tim Henman. The British No 1 is back in training after a lengthy injury layoff and looking forward to Wimbledon. Henman underwent an operation on his elbow shortly before Britain's Davis Cup defeat by Zimbahwe earlier this month and has been forced to miss several tournaments.

Now Henman, ranked No 15 in the world, is looking forward with confidence to his comeback, starting at the Italian Open on 12 May, That event will form part of his preparations for the French Open along with an event at St Poulton in Austria, before he moves on to

Yesterday Henman was keen get back on court and test the elbow under match conditions. He said: "I am happy to say that I am back practising and have Whites an emotional incentive | been since Monday without any pain."

League aspirants on song

Hockey BILL COLWILL

Hampstead & Westminster and Chelmsford started their challenge to regain their National League status with powerful performances on the first day of

the Inter League Tournament at Milton Keynes yesterday. Mike Cullen, Chelmsford's South African international opened the scoring in the second minute in their 4-1 win against Loughborough Students, Ajthough Graham Butler equalised for the students within two minutes, further goals from Darren Whitford (2) and Alan Thorogood saw Chelmsford home. Rob Thompson, Hampstead's

player-coach, scored twice in his side's 3-0 defeat of Norton but it was the midfield play of the Dutchman Jan Job van Dijk and the captain, Dan Williams, which dominated the game.

Reading, the HA Cup holders, will be without two key players for their semi-final tomorrow against St Albans at Sonning Lane, Great Britain goalkeeper Simon Mason is recovering after surgery to his back and England Under-21 midfielder Manpreet Kochar is suffering

from a stress fracture in his leg. Should Reading win tomorrow, as is likely, both are expected to miss the final at Milton Keynes on 11 May. Richard Hargraves will take over from Mason. The good news for Reading is the return of under-18 international Jonny Loose and the New Zealander Karl Sunders, who has been nursing a hamstring injury.

Teddington could be without Peter Wiles for their visit to Surbiton in which case Jamie McBride comes in. Teddington will recall their 4-3 defeat by the Surrey club at the beginning of the season, but it is difficult to see anything other than a Reading-Teddington final with Reading wanting to add the cup to their league title.

Brewer's arrival cheers West Firepower of Jarvis threatens Swansea

CHRIS HEWETT

High-flown ambition or pure, undiluted masochism? Mike Brewer, the former All Black loose forward who agreed yesterday to take over the reins at West Hartlepool, has embarked on such a mountainous task that he would be well advised to pull in Chris Bonnington as his No 2.

But then, Brewer is not exactly renowned for shirking a challenge. A prodigiously gifted and strikingly intelligent back-row operator for Otago, Canterbury and New Zealand, he was bold enough to turn his back on his country's World Cup bid in 1991 after telling the matches next season, I will." "Auckland mafia" a few home truths – his opinions were spot

The Washington Redskins re-signed Dar-rell Green yesterday, ensuring that the six-time Pro Bowl cornerback will play

the rest of his National Football League career with Washington, although the terms of the new contract were not dis-

American football

Australian Rules

on, as the Kiwi campaign subsequently demonstrated - and signed off for good four years Springbok rugby autocrat, a Brewer replaces Mark Ring,

with whom West parted company on Tuesday night following a depressing descent into the black hole of relegation. "There's a lot of work to do," he admitted yesterday, fully aware of his new club's lamentable record of three victories in 38 starts over the last two seasons. "My objective is to develop the team and individuals who can make decisions and if that requires me to play in certain

The demands of the rugby directorship means Brewer must

SPORTING DIGEST

sever his ties with the Irish national side and end his association with Blackrock where he has later by giving Louis Luyt, the been a player-coach. Brewer plans to watch West's penultimate ague fixture with London Irish the caretaker coach, Dave Stubbs, before assuming com-

mand early in the close season. be on Wasps' championship tussle at Northampton, both Sale and Harlequins face testing examinations as they contique a nip-and-tuck battle for the fourth Heineken Cup qualifying place. The Cheshire chib visit Bath, who could still retain their title if Wasps slip up at Quins lock horns with Leicester at Welford Road.

Jarvis will today endeavour to reassure his Welsh countrymen of the continued existence of that Australian coach who has just relegendary outside-half factory turned to Britain for a second this afternoon in the company of principality, writes Chris Hewett.

Given that the emergence of a new challenger for the national No 10 jersey would prob-Although most eyes will ably do more for Plaid Cymru's hot at scrum-half - his three-try vote next Thursday than any number of party political broadcasts, the 20-year-old rookie carries a heavy burden into this afternoon's Swalec Cup final.

Having consigned Jonathan Davies to the replacements' bench, the goal-kicker will be very much on trial as Cardiff take Franklins Gardens, while on Swansea in a classic east-west confrontation amid the ruins of a half-demolished Arms Park. If

Cocksure as they come. Lee his confidence levels are anything to go by, he has little to fear. Alec Evans, the successful

ep in the valleys of the stint at Cardiff, believes Jarvis possesses the strut and swagger to spark a dangerous-looking back division into meaningful action. With Rob Howley running performance against Llanelli in the semi-final has already passed into rugby folklore - the "home"

side go in with a definite edge. Especially as Arwel Thomas, the current first-choice stand-off at Test level, will be conspicuous by his absence because of injury. Swansea will find it difficult to

TODAY

have shown this season is a ously, but it's common sense that tremendous spirit that has Lee should play today."
helped us overcome appalling For Mike Ruddock, the helped us overcome appalling injury problems." The way Jarvis has kicked this

wishing the Arms Park posts had takes over as rugby director been sold off early, along with an endless tonnage of other sentimental artefacts. His early penalties against Llanelli were to hit the heights this afternoon, instrumental to the outcome, as but whether that will be enough

instrumental to the outcome, as were his extraordinary longrange efforts against Bath in last autumn's epic Heineken Cup quarter-final.

Certainly, Davies has no axe to grind over the Cardiff selection. "Lee performed particularly well in the semi-final while I'm a little rusty, having not played much over the last month," he said. "I'm disappointed, obvi-

paper over that particular crack, a little rusty, having not played although Mark Taylor, their much over the last month," he centre, said yesterday. "What we said. "Tim disappointed, obvi-

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

NORTH WEST COUNTRES LENGUE First Distance Bodde v Vauntel (Mc Checkerter v Essecod Her-ley: Mossley v Newcastle Town; Narbusch Town Parrath; St Haless Town v Holler Old Boys; Traf-tord v Safford City.

Permark St Helians Town v Holbert Old Boys: Trestord v Selford Cty.

JEWSON WEBSEX LEARLIE: Lymington v Boumemouth Ak; Totton v Portsmouth Rist, Andersev Brodesinius; BAT Sports v Portsmouth Rist, Andersev Brodesinius; BAT Sports v Portsmouth Rist, Andersev Brodesinius; BAT Sports v Portsey Town; Benterton Heath Hartequirs v Aeropropagate; Christoffanth Villenbert Bows; Bestlegh v Cowes.

Sports; Gosport Borough v East Covest Vers Ryde Sports v Whitehanch Lied; Trestohern Town v Downton.

JEMSON EASTERN LEAGUE Presider Division; Bury Town v Whoodshrige Town; Cleaton Town v Constant.

JEMSON EASTERN LEAGUE Presider Division; Bury Town v Whoodshrige Town; Cleaton Town v Westlem Committed Sports v Westlem Committed Villenberg St. Michaelb Pestlem Committed Sports v Westlem Committed Villenberg St. Michaelb Pestlem Committed Sports v Westlem Committed Villenberg St. Michaelb Pestlem Committed Sports v Westlem Committed Villenberg St. Michaelb Pestlem Committed Sports v Westlem Committed Villenberg St. Michaelb Pestlem Committed Sports v Westlem Committed Villenberg St. Michaelb Pestlem Committed Sports v Westlem Committed Sports v Westlem Committed Sports v Westlem Committed Sports v Westlem Villenberg Villenberg Sports v Westlem Villenberg Sports v Westlem Villenberg Sports v Westlem Villenberg Villenber

Williams Freezburgh v Wick Academy; Keith v Hust-ly, Lossemouth v Herm County.

LEASUE OF WALES: Abergsteyth v Comess Bay (2.30); Barry Town v Corney (2.30); Berbon Perry v Caemarin Towns; Caesard v Ingr Cable-Tel Carditi Cambion v Holywell; Porthmatog v Rist Town; Rhyl v Resomers Welshpool v Tom Perren, Gilbert Camp sent-final second-legs Llansers(final (1) v Barr-gor Cer (1) (2.30).

SASTRIOGE BRSH LEAGUE Pressing Divisions:

gor Cay (1) (2.30).
SMERROFF HISH LEAGUE Premier Divisions
Catennale v Generors v Unfelct Gentoran v Arts. Portadown v Cruesden. First Division:
Ballyctare v Elegenment, Bangor v Carrist: Distillary
V Newsy, Omegi Town v Lame.
PONTRIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Eventon v
Backburn (2.0); Marchaster Ltd v Leads (2.0).
ANON RESURVINGE COMBINATION First Division:
Chariton v Arsonal. Rugby Union
3.0 orion stated

3.0 unless stated

GOURAGE CLIES CHAMPIGNSHIP Nettonal
Leegae Gest Both v Seler Gloucester v Bestot;
Letosater v Harteques, Northernpton v Waspa
(2.15); Orreit v Serocers; West Hardepool v London Irish. Metional Leegae Twee Covertity v Bedtext: Mosseley v Rotherham, Newcestle v London
Scotheth Richmond v Notinghum; Welesfelet v
Blackheath; Waterloo v Rustly, Nettonal League
Threet Cliffon V Updrie; Prider v London Welstr,
Haward v Leeder Leerpool St Helene v Harngoste;
Mority v Rothuffe Obly v Ender, Reading v
Waterlander Rosslyn Park v Waterland: ManLeague Pour Nortic: Birmingsam/Scitual v Aspartice Renatu v Steffelet; Londer v Hernstot; Manchester v Stole-on-Trent; Prezon Grasshoppers
v Warneston, Rustlonal Leegue Four South;
Barkeig v Tabaett; Camberley v Sarry Hit; Hersley
v Chetemhart, High Wejorniev Aslesser, Met Polag v North Weisherr; Newtury v Phrimouth; Weston-S-Mark v Charthon Park;
SWALEC CLIP Finet: Cardiff v Swanses; (st Na-SWALEC CUP Finet: Cardiff v Swansea; (at Na-tional Ground Cardiff).

Hockey
INTER LEAGUE YOURNAMENT (Allton Neymock:
10.0 City of Pottsmouth v Chelmstord; 12.0 Etgtsesson v Hamostand & Westminster; 2.0 Loughtorqueh Students v Robinson & A.O Norton v
Anchomen.
VROMEN'S COURTY CHAMPIONSHIP finals
(Old Loughtonisms): 10.0 Surrey v Northamp-

enormous. It's easy to forget that he is still only 24, but his

youth is a buge asset because in-

stead of being seen as an elder

statesman, he commands the re-

spect of his peer group. The

most striking aspect of this

team is the wonderful atmos-

phere generated in the dressing-

room and when you boil

everything down to its compo-

nent parts, that atmosphere

has carried us through some

pretty tight contests.
"Both Rob and I believe we

can take this side further. We

are one third of the way through

a three-year development plan

in terms of fitness and skill lev-

els and if we can recruit care-

fully once again to bolster areas

of questionable strength, there

is no earthly reason why we

Swansea coach, today's show-

piece marks the end of a pro-

ductive sojourn at St Helen's; he

with Leinster next month. His

departure will give the All

Speedway S.DO GLOWARY
7.50 unless stated
7.50 unless stated
LITE LENGUE Bradford v Ipswich; Coventry v Swindor; Esstbourne v Balle Vue.
PREMIER LEAGUE Koool-out Cupt Arene Essex
v Outbrd (8.01; Berwick v Glesgow (7.01; Stoke v

Other sports TABLE TIPMUS: World Championships (Man-

TOMORROW Football POGRADANIA HARP (MITIONAL LEAGUE OF RELAND Premier Divelore Bray Wendrates v Deny City (3.1.5); Cont City v Strenot Rouers (3.1.5); Finn Harps v Sa-ga Revers (3.1.5); Shelbourne v Dundzik (3.15); St Patricks Ath v Home Farm Eventon (3.1.5); UCD v Bötericks Ath v Home Farm Eventon (3.1.5); UCD v Bötericks (3.1.5).

Rugiby League
3.0 unless stated
stones stated
stones Super League; Bractord v Shellied
(6.0); London v Leads (6.35); Oldnam v Hairbo;
St Helens v Castelrod Lat Durpool TC Warms;
ton v Pana. First Division: Feetherstone v
Warnes (3.30); Huddensled v Wortergton (3.30);
Walenfald v Keeghey (3.30); Whitehaven v Huli k
(3.30). Second Divisions Barryer v Lancasture
Lyn; Barnley v Carliels; Nursies v Charaster (3.30);
Lingn v Yoric Rochdale v Prescot.

Rugiby Union
WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Treordry v Newtont (2.30).
SRU TENNENTS 1556 CEP Semi-finates Boroutpruse v Nertous PC 2.0) (at Currio): Nerecaldy
v Meirose (2.0) (at Netherdale).
SRU TENNENTS 1556 BOWL, Semi-finate: Biggr v Plack High G.30) (at Netherdale); Tomy Acade
v Seldok (2.0) (at Pennyolit).
SRU TENNENTS 1556 BOWLD Semi-finate: CHK
v Abardson GSFP (2.0) (at Duffus Park, Cupar);
Hausick v Currio (2.0) (at Optios LC, Peoples).

HOCKETY

MA CUF Sens-finals: Reading v St Albons (2.0);
Surbiton v feddington (2.30).

NITER-LEAGUE TOURNAMENT (satisfies Reyneas);
10.0 Coy of Persissions vibugitismings Touriette,
11.0 Edginston v Norton; 2.0 Chelmstord v Robinsone 4.0 Hampetead & Westmuster v Anchonanic,
WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPENINSEP PRIALS (Die
Longstontams); 10.0 Humberside v Surrey,
Dorset v Northerment; 11.48 Hent v Lonex, Sortis
v Gloucester, 2.0 Frant.

Other sports GOLF, Men's International: Scotland v France (St Andrews); Helen Holm Scotlash Open Streleploy Championiship (Portland and Royal Troon). Trampionship (Portland and Roje) MOTORCYCLENG: British Superi onship (Outlan Park). MOTOR RACING: Broath F3 Champsonship (Brands Hassn); Prefit International Refly (Carlade). SNOOKER: Embassy World Champsonships Granfisch TABLE TENNES: World Championships (Man-

Vinson out of the running for Monarchs Concan football

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Hampsh

Andrews Committee Committee of the Commi Colognel, Carlouesan (Real Sociedad).
Thursday's lette results: Exropean Cog-Wieners' Cup Semi-finels second legs Foreners o Burcelora 2 (Barcelora win 3-1 or aggregate: Lucepool 2 Paris SG 0 (Paris win 3-2 on aggregate: Lucepool 2 Paris SG 0 (Paris win 3-2 on aggregate: Lucepool 2 Paris SG 0 (Paris win 3-2 on aggregate: Lucepool 2 Paris SG 0 (Paris win 3-2 on aggregate: Lucepool 2 Paris SG 0 (Paris win 3-2 on aggregate: Lucepool 2 Paris SG 0 (Paris win 3-2 on aggregate: Lucepool 2 Paris SG 0 (Paris win 3-2 on aggregate: Lucepool 2 Paris SG 0 (Paris Walder) Lucephan Lucepool Division: Walderd O Cresarinda 2 Edit Vision 1 Paris Division: Edition 1 Paris Division: Charlong 3 : Hinten 2 Supon Lucephan 1 Lucephan Paris Division: Edition 1 Lucephan 1 Crockerinal 2 Courstour, 2 Steeppoy 3: State Green 0 Herric

Bay 1, Screwfox Direct League Premier Di-visione Brasington 0 Mangotsfield 1: Bristol Manor Form 2 Tiverton 5. North West Coun-ties League Challenge Cup Finalt Newcas-te Town 2 Trafford 1 (at Gigt Lane, Buy). Jewson Eastern League Premier Divisions. Buy) Town 2 Harwich & Parkeston 2: Diss 5 Fe-losstowe 0. Harp National League of Ireland Premiars 1. Portifies League First Divisions. Lecesar City 2 Hudder-Seld Town 1. Second Division: Christy Town 1. For City 1; Mans-feld Town 2 Burnley 9. German Leaguer St Pauli O Hersa Rosmok 1.

Athletics
QATAR RITERNATIONAL (Dobe, Thursday selected): 100m; 1 R Stewart Llami 10.1 isse; 2 L Christe (38) 10.15; 2 M Green (Lami 10.1 isse; 2 L Christe (38) 10.15; 2 M Green (Lami 10.1 isse; 30.3 i; 2 B Brorcon (15) 20.36; 3 R Grf- an (15) 20.53; 4 L Christe (68) 20.59; 400; 1 M McDonald (Lami 44, 79; 2 B Reyrolds (15) 4 M Schonald (Lami 44, 79; 2 B Reyrolds (15) 45,25; 3 S Bata (Ngena) 45,51; 4 J Bauich (56) 45 7 4, 1500; 1 B Koech (Nen) 3man 34,30sc; 2 M Ngen (Ken) 256,38; 3 W Tanu (Ken) 356,57; 5 T Whateman (GB) 3,39,58, 2,000m; 1 P Batok (Nen) 7:40,42; 2 1 Ngbook (Lami 10.7); 3 G Chirchir (Nen) 7.43,84, NBA PLAY-OFFS: Eastern Conference: New York 109 Chartotte 99 (New York lead best-of-fice sends 1-0). Western Conference: Hous-ton 112 Mannesota 95 (Houston lead senes 1-0); Urah 106 La Cappers 86 (Utah lead senes RSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European Club 's Chempionship (Rome) Frent Olympulos AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Tottenham 3 West Ham 0.

NATIONAL INTER-LEAGUE TOURSUAMENT (Milton Keynes) First day: Pool & Cheims-ford 4 Loughborough Students 1; Robinsons O City of Portsmouth 2. Pool & Hampstead & Westmisser 3 Norton 0; Edgoaston 1 As-chorians 0.

ice hockey NHL STANLEY CUP PLAY-OFFS: Eastern Conference: Montreal 4 New Jersey 3 (cd New Jersey (and best-of-seven series 3-1). Western Conference: Calcado 7 Chicago O (Colorado leid Series 3-2); Proceit 5 Areherm 2 (Phoenix leid series 3-2); Proceit 5 Areherm 2 (Phoenix leid series 3-2).

Rugby League SUPER LEAGUE: Australia 34 New Zealand 22

Rugby Union Scotland will play both Australia and South Africa at Murrayfield before Christmas, Against Australia on 22 No-vember 22 and South Africa on 6 De-

Salling
Ben Airsile, the Olympic silver medallist last year, won the Lasers race at Hyeres Olympic Week yesterday. Shiney
Robertson came third in the Europes
and John Merricks and Ian Welker began their build-up to the 470 World
Championship in Israel in August, with
a fourth.

Speedway

POSTPONED (waterlogged track): Premier Langue Rhock-out Cup: Oxford v Arging Ereck. Ellin Langue: Postportugil v Coverny; Belle Vue Lastiourus Americus Langue: Busic Vue Cots. v Reading & Swington. THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Este League: (5-such 56 Coverny 34, Premier League Cur: Shefheld 54 Hulf 35. Table tennis

Table tempis

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (6-Mext Centre, Memchaster) Men Catagory Two Group & Instead by Section 3-0 (C Seein by D E Sar 21.4 21.4; J Cowan by A E Mext Centre 21.13 21-19; S Soeinan by A Pare 21.13 21.19; S Soeinan by A Pare 21.13 21.19; S Soeinan by A Pare 21.13 21.19; Group it Sectional by Zaire well-one; E England 3 Armena O (1 Lomes by A Makinlan 21.10 21.13; A Hott by Y Andren 21.11 22.40; L Radion by M Sableighan 21.13 21.15; Catagory Two Group & Argentinie by Inches 3-1 (A Centre by It A Glover 22.24 21.18 21.7; For Hea by the Golden 21.15 21.10; D Peng tops to 8 Long th A Giover 22:-24 21:-18 21:-17; Non hise is by 1 6 oldserd 21:-15 21:-10; D Perry lost to B linné 21:-9 17:-21 14:-21; Non hise is by Giover 21:-19 21:-9). Grapp R: Woles by New Zandserd 3:-1 (N Williams by D General 21:-10 21:-6; B Daumon by S Finch 21:-19 22:-12: D Deves lost to 1 Epps 10:-21:-19 22:-12: D Deves lost to 1 Epps 10:-21:-9-21; Williams by Finch 21:-15 21:-11).

Tennis

No play was possible at both the men's and women's satellite tournaments at Bournemouth yesterday because of rain. MEN'S CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHEPS (Orlan-MENTS CLAY COUNT CHAMPIONSHIPS (Orbande, Fiel) Second round: M Cheng (RS) by 3 Albert Vilices (Sp) G-2 G-7 7-5; M Pispoirs (Unig)
by P Kords (C.2 Rep) B-3 G-1; J Stollenberg (Aus)
by M Norman (Swe) 7-6 5-4; B Black (Zm) by D
van Scheppingen (Math) 7-6 3-6 G-3.
MONTE CARLO MENTS OPPN Stegles, quarterfinalis: A Corretta (Sp) by C Rust (Not) 6-2 G-0;
7 Sentoro (Fir) by C Costa (Sp) B-3 7-5; C Moyel
(Sp) by R Neigles (Meth) 1-6-2 G-4; M Ros (Crief)
by M Larsson (Swe) 6-2 G-1.

Biban-Psy Monances (Green Universales of the Costa
Biban-Bi MINAPEST WOMEN'S OPEN TOURNAMENT SIN-Bion, quantum-diraist: A Contant (SA) by E wings-er (Ger) 6-1 6-76-2; K Habbuson (Sloval) br. A Fusio (F4 6-4-6-3; H Nogrom (Sloval) br. A Nogen (SA) 4-4 6-3; S Appaintures (Ber) br. C Tou-ners-Valeon (Sp) 6-4 6-5;

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

I I I a Cabinastor I'm just who I am, who everyou see I retirn to you. Tiger Whoods, who is a quarter the black, a quarter Treft is quarter Chinese, one eighth Caucastan and one eighth Native American.

I I had almost forgother when I won impless neighth leap. Was five for or after the ver? Alian Boston or after the second that it is a river where I alian Boston on the Challenger or after the veryon of the those and the things and the back Alian Engineer. Membersher to Borussia Dormand in the European Cap semi-Aria.

European Cup serri-final.

Tier attacks were like a winti-

wind that came over us. Man-chester United played a great game, but they foogst to score the great. Ottma: lift field. Dortmand coech.

They were prepared to die fac-the cause our trendard that is per-

the cause our there and that is perhaps something we might have polearn Phil yleville. United distincts.

Sevent of our players intoplayed are aged 23 or under They
will learn. And the next 10 years
will be ours. Eric Contons.

Those who seer saw Denis
Compton bet have an imposite this
memory of the greatest cavaller of
cristed clotic Major or the death
at (25 of e-sporting hero.)

If the was a legard. We played Singmy in a three-stay game in 1950. rey in a three 269 game in 1950

inv in a three clay same in 1950 and 60,000 people carrie in number. The turnstiles, grainly to say than the turnstiles, grainly to say than the was the repair. He had films start, from the repair Middlesser govern and former player.

If fluidly, I'm a real athlets, fin affices has to be observed all about injuries, figure Mantline Mingle women's world No. I tennis player affig. at leasure of operation.

Football Metaries not on pook coupons; 3.0 unless stated
SSEALEAGUE Premier Divisions Bishop's Stortford v Histohirs, Chartsey v Herow Borough; Dolwich v Staness; Enfeld v Mingstonuss; Hendon v
Broning; Heybritge v Yaosè Oxford Cly v Daginham
& Redintigles; SJ.Abbers v Boretham Noot; Sutton
Und v Grings; Yandham v Regist v Croydon; Chestram United v. Bassagssole Town; Herotham v Carley Bland; Leyan Pinnern v Berkhamsted
Town; United; a Molesey, Welson & Herotham
V Carley Bland; Leyan Pinnern v Berkhamsted
Town; United; a Molesey, Welson & Herotham
V Markow; Whysiesels v Woreing, Second Division:
Chestram V Berdont Town; Edgaster Town v Dorining Egham Town v Barking; Hernel Hempsteed v
Wernbey; Horsten v Coller Row & Romford;
Hungsford Town v Westeboe Town: Lestnamheed
v Chastons; Stretter, Legiton Town v Method
V Chastons; Stretter, Begin Town by Barkina
Police; Tibury v Wenders & Enn; Ware v
Benussed Arbeits; Welgen Town v Hentford Town; Kingsbury Town v Aseley; Northerood v Placional Heater,
Southall v Wingson & Frachley.
Unesign LEAAGUE Premier Divisions: Acortington Stanley v Finchey; Barriber Bridge v Grassey;
Byth Spantane v Lancasses; Beston Unit of w Whisley Boy; Brodicant Spanymour Leafs Town; VingByth Spantane v Lancasses; Beston Unit of withton Town; Knowstey v Gairsborough; Rundom v
Barbop Audisons; Spanymour Leafs Town; VingByth Spantane v Lancasses; Beston Unit of w Whisley Boy; Brodicant Park Avenue v Atherom LF;
Congleton Town v Netherfield; Droystales v Vela
Town; Leafsey Chebr; Woodington v Leigh PMI.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Presider Divisions: Aghribar Ad
Ton ID Mart Marten League Presider Divisions: Ad
Ton Done v Kings Stynn; Cantinating; City Chebrie
Ton Leaven Martens League Divisions of Beston Policy Residency Processer Divisions of Beston Policy P

SDC-Stordigs Y Glean Transport John Y Managam Town Y Farsily Calif.; Wordington Y Leigh FMA.; DR MARTTENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Aghind Town Y Ming's Lynn; Cambridge Tilly Chelmison (12.0); Chrolischem Y Newport AFC, Cobiely Town V Allestone; Gassand Y Menting Y 1925; Greenly Rowarz V Glovester Cey, Heapings V Baidcock, Nameson V Bordinester, Saladay Y Meadenson Town; Suchury Town V Barton Albort, Westester Cey Y Studies Committed Unit Y Ming Source, Middle Division: Bedoorth Unit Y More Grant Conty Town; Caroline I Down V Butter (1974) Town; Caroline Committee I Down V Hurdely Town; Caroline Town; Results Town V Pager Rengers; Schille V Bestan Town; Raudic Town of Rengers Pleasan Unit; Sestion Rengers (1984) V Str. Down; Charlett Town; Southern Division: Baidway V Str. Down; Charlett Town V R. Leonardig; Committee Williams; Committee Committ

v Fisher Athlete,
www.ftow.R.E.D. KEN'T LEAGUE First Division:
Beckenhern Town v Themesmedd Town; Commitan v Deal Town; Furthess v Remagete; Greenwich
Borough v Charthern Town; Londewood v Stede
Green: Sheppey United v Tunbridge Walts; Whitstable Town v Cray Warnderers; Woolnich Town v
Herne Bay.
UNIUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division:
Avanded v Resharer League Front Division:

UNIDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Arunds' v Fegirary; Langney Sports v Wick, Mile Onle v Shorthart, Caleodo v Hailaten Towns Saft-dasa United v Whatehanks Safety v Ringhor; Three Bridges v Horstein YMCA.

UNLSPORT INSTED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Nemports v Mostan Town; Long Buddy v Ejensburg, Potton v Ford Sports; St Noos v Moberts Spatisfies Cognitics; Cotty v Nemport Pagnet; Spatisfies Cognitics; Wootton v Stanford.

SCREWFOX DESIGN LEAGUE Premier Divisions: Screen Cognitions of the Cognition of Weston v Weston v United Cognitions of Cognitions of

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sport

was made the smile

The apartment seeded g the quantum seconds the property of the Dutchman in the

- somewhere

But according to one mem-ber, Robin Marlar, ex-Harrow

and Cambridge, former county

captain, former Sunday Times

cricket correspondent, former

Conservative parliamentary candidate for Bolsover and

now, to his delight, chairman of

Sussex, it had all been going wrong long before the Giddins

"The whole thing was rotten,

but it was so easy for someone

of my background to repair," said the president of Marlar

International, his head-hunting

company, and the Mariar

For Mariar the final straw had

come in November when Danny

Law, a promising young all-

rounder of whom he had par-

ticularly high hopes, left Sussex

to join Essex. When Tony Pigott, a former Sussex player, subse-

quently asked Marlar to back his

attempt to overthrow the entire

Sussex committee, Mariar, now

66, needed no second bidding.

This was despite a serious hip op-

Group of Consultancies.

affair.

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Vinson out of the running for Monarchs

The London Monarchs must win tonight in Amsterdam to keep alive their hopes of host-ing the World Bowl, an honour bestowed on the team with the

best mark midway through the

American football

Seasoil. Their opponents, the Admirals, coming off a 19-10 defeat in Frankfurt and without a victory, are also under pressure. They have to win to salvage any hope of a championship run. The Monarchs suffered de-

feat in their last game, too, a 28-6 beating by Rhein Fire, a loss that saw their running back. Tony Vinson, hobble off the field with a sprained ankle after gaining a paltry five yards. He is unlikely to play, his position filled by the powerful Ed Hobbs and the rapid Abrams Smith.

London will want to improve on the Rhein game, which saw their offence rush for a mere 39 yards and four first downs while the quarterback, Stan White, sacked three times, completed just eight passes for 74 yards.

Lionel Taylor, the Monarchs coach, described the defeat as a "good old fashioned whipping". but yesterday was taking a positive view. "I hope some good comes out of that game, because it might shake some of

my guys up a bit," he said. aylor will be anxious for London to counter the threat posed by the Admirals' running back, Brent Moss, Mike McCoy, the quarterback, has completed nine of 18 passes for 86 yards and one touchdown but has thrown two interceptions.

For Marlar read radical romantic

t is in the nature of cricket Adam Szreter that, when the season ends the kit is locked away for meets the cricket another winter and thoughts of those involved return to someioumalist now in thing approaching normality. It usually lasts until about Christcharge of Sussex mas, then all hell breaks loose

ago - "I was quite ill, nearly snuffed it, so they tell me." After a brief but bloody This year the serene ambibattle they succeeded. The employment of the 57-year-old club secretary, Nigel Betts, last spotted baring his behind for the ence of the South Downs has been rudely disturbed by a well publicised rumpus at Hove. Since the sacking towards the end of last season of their Eng-land A fast bowler Ed Giddins, magazine British Naturism, "is at an end", according to Mar-lar and, with Pigott installed as the new chief executive, peace who was found to have taken cocaine, five more senior players have left the club for various reasons, including the deposed captain, Alan Wells.

'Sussex people are not like Yorkshiremen. To get beaten isn't the end of the world'

has been restored. Whether it will be quiet, however, is another matter.

Marlar and Pigott seem an odd couple at first glance, both former Sussex players but from very different eras. Earlier this week, in the drawing room of his extensive manor house near Guildford which he shares with his beloved wife and two doting dogs. Mariar explained: "His father and I played cricket at school together, but in all the time I've been in newspapers I've never been close to any of

"At one stage Tony wanted

by Warwickshire. We had a long chat to find out what he really wanted, as you do, and he obviously wanted to stay where

Man management is something Mariar will undoubtedly involve himself with at Hove but it is hard to believe any aspect of the club's running will be left un-Mariared. "One of the things I've been railing against for years is the complete failure of cricketing establishments to organise themselves properly, including Lord's," he said. What we've done is put in the kind of management structure that any consultant would do in a minute. It's blindingly obvious and so simple.

"The thing's got to be run as an executive body, with someone to look after the cricket, the ame as a production manager in a factory; marketing, which is absolutely crucial; and the administration -- counting up the books. Classic organisation. My job is non-executive and

I'll have to keep reminding my self and the members of the committee who are also nonexecutive, how they can and cannot behave. They're not going to like this, some of them.

"For instance, the first little problem we've got is the library, which is in the best office on the County Ground. The cricket office is in a Portakabin behind a sightscreen, without windows and facing the wrong way. Facing a block of flats. The cricket office! What's the bloody club for? For playing cricket. So Tony Pigott said we're going to move the cricket office and i said go ahead, go for it.
"The chief librarian, who is

to leave Sussex early in his a lovely man and does a



A home from Hove: Robin Marlar's varied career now includes being chairman of Sussex

wonderful job, couldn't handle it and resigned. We'll make him a vice-president because he deserves it, a very important servant of the club."

Mariar has high hopes of the newly formed English Cricket Board and was quick to defend its chairman, Lord MacLaurin, a long-time acquaintance, over his recent threat to resign if the counties did not fall in with future proposals. "The ECB pays five-eighths of our revenue and they're entitled to do what-

should be audited from the centre. That would be a revo-lution in itself."

The structure of the game is, according to Marlar, of sec-ondary importance. "You could play a whole concerto on the new ideas, it's just that every now and again one of them becomes politically correct. This latest one, two divisions, is absolute bunk."

One subject which has Marlar momentarily lost for words is one on which he is perhaps ever they like. All counties better qualified to speak than

the players and is deleterious to Despite, or perhaps because of, his own vintage Marlar is keen to stress his ideas for bring-

any other club chairman - the

press. He intends to continue

writing and as to his compan-

ions in the Press box he says.

after much thought: "I think all

the members of the media love

their cricket. But the under-

standing of it, as evidenced

sometimes by questions in press

conferences, is enough to upset

He intends to incorporate an under-30s management group into the Hove structure and is working on a plan to attract chil-dren of working parents into the ground during holidays. Despite the encouraging start they have made against Northamptonshire, expecta-

"That's the real issue," he says.

tions on the playing side at Sussex will not be high this season. club was that you've got to win something. It's not that now,

because Sussex people are not like Yorkshiremen or Lancastrians; to get beaten isn't the end of the world. To play well is the objective. If you play well and lose, that's not a disgrace. I don't mind that."

And for the time being Marlar, who could perhaps be described as a radical romantic. "couldn't be more pleased" with life. "For a captain to be "Before, the attitude at the a cricket journalist for 42 years and then finish up as chairman of the club, even for a year, it's ingyoung people into the game. and nor should it ever be just a dream, absolute dream.

Hampshire grab lifeline Surrey left counting Tall order for Derbyshire

DEREK PRINGLE reports from Cheimsford --Essex 246 and 442-8 dec Hampshire 161 and 3-0

Rain may be something that is desperately needed around the country, but droughts are still the preference of those whose teams are in the ascendancy, as Essex are here. With only 15 overs play possible, however, the rejoicing was not just confined to those in the farming sector. as Hampshire, needing 528 to win, gleefully huddled aboard the temporary life raft thrown them as a leaden sky dropped

With rain forecast, many thought it curious that Essex batted on at all, given that they were already 459 runs ahead when play started on time. But bat they did, the extra 14 overs giving Ronnie Irani plenty of time to reach an unbeaten 123, the best of his career.

But well though Irani played, in the context of this game, bat-

tering the likes of Hamoshire's ment suddenly moved the goallightweight attack is unlikely to posts, even going as far as to in-bring about the necessary in-struct Ian Botham, enlisted as provements needed to cope a part-time bowling coach, to HENRY BLOFELD match cricket. Being the forgotten man on a tour where the cricket was eminently forgettable is not something that particularly bodes well for the

future. When he first came into the frame for Test selection. Graham Gooch's admiration for his desire to succeed probably went a long way to securing his selection. Once, when someone asked him what the difference was between Chris Lewis and Ronnie Irani, Gooch answered, "You'll see the answer in Ron's eyes. You only have to look into them to see the lad wants it

But wanting is not always get-ting as Irani found out in Zimbabwe and New Zealand last winter, when he spent most of his time driving the drinks cart. Having picked him as a batsman who could do a job with the ball, the England manage-

Britannic Assurance

5-497.
ESSEX — Second Irmings
(Evernight 373 for 7)
R C learn not out
M C Blots b Udel
A P Covern not out
Extree (Fig. 2016, etc., nb24)
Total (for 8 dec, 98 evern)

Did not bet: P M Such.

gtal (for 0, 1 over)...

ESSEX v Hampshire
CHEMISTORD: furnation (4pts), with all their
second-ballogs vectors standing, trail Essex
(5) by \$24 rans. Today: 11.0.

Alementhis won tess ESSEX — First heinigs 246 (P.) Prichard 65; C.A. Comer 7-46).

Bowling: Conner 12-0-66-0; Millium 11-0-75-0; Stephenson 20-3-74-3; James 22-0-106-3; Measterning 15-2-48-1; Linki 16-2-55-1 HAMPSHIRE - Second Innings 1 5 Linky not out

To bat: "J P Stephenson, M Keech, W S Kendal, K D James, "A N Aymes, S D Udel, A D Mas-cerentees, S M Millours, C A Connor. Bowling the debt; Rott 1-0-3-0.

Umpires: J C Balderstone and V A Holder.

Giamorgan v Warwicksbiro

CARDET! Warnishtain Opts, with saves sec-cod-limitings wickers standing, trail Glanter-ger (6) by \$22 mas, Today: 11.0.

WARMCKSHRE - First Innings 151 (S.D. Thomas 4-62). etyles won toss .

GLAMORGAN — First innings 551 for 3 dec (H Monts 233, A Daie 106, S P James 83).

To het: D L Herro, D P Ostler, T L Pennsy, N M K Smith, 1K J Piper, G C Smell, A F Gles.

Bonding (to deta): Water 12-3-15-0; Thomas 12-5-3-31-2; Croft 7-4-10-1; Butcher 3-0-21-

DANIERRUST: Derbyshire (Spis), with eight second-havings without standing, treat Kent (5) by 277 rans. Today: 11.0.

rests won 1065 (ICMT – Piret levelage 251 (M A Esthern 72no, § A Marsh 57; D E Malodin 6-74).

OFFICE First bridge 248 (KM Friden 61; M J McCaga: 5-75, D W Hearley 4-81);

implines: M J Kitchen and D J Constant.

IRE - Second Innings

Kent v Derbyshire

rad 1:6. 2:74. 3:77.

GRE - First busings 181 (A P Courte

Third day of four

him into a proper all-rounder. In Zimbabwe, Botham worked his new charge hard, but once the trout streams of New Zealand came into view, the tuition dried up.

Irani is a player whose game thrives on confidence. Away from familiar faces and county colleagues who rated him, his confidence probably took its biggest dent to date. As a result, his batting, the dominant part of the package he offers as a player, suffered horribly.

hinder or help his future chances of Test cricket remains to be seen. What is bevond dispute, however, particularly on the evidence of this match, is that he can be a match-winner for Essex with both bat and ball. Not long ago, that was as good a starting point as any to relaunch an international career.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Reft. 1.55, 2-79, 3-79, 4-79, 5-120, 6-180, 7-218, 8-227, 9-293.

Bouling: Cork 19-5-50-0; Malcolm 20.4-0-112-1; Defretas 20-5-64-7; Dean 11-1-43-2; Clarks 6-0-53-0; Rollins 1-0-9-0.

Bouting: Headley 6-1-14-2; McCague 7.2-1-38-0; Eatham 2-0-6-0.

LANCASHIRE - First innings 506 (G D Lloyd 102, P J Martin 78no, J ER Gallien 78, G Chap-ple 99, M Wastinson 52).

LEICESTER: No play yesterday (rain). Today:

GLOUCESTERSHIRE - First landings 245 (S Young 59, R C Russed 57; A L Multiply 5-52).

LEICESTERSHIPE - Float innings 307 (D L Med-ly 80, P A Nixon 77no).

Uniphres: J H Hampshire and J D Bond.

Nottinghamshire v Worcs TRENT BREDGE: No play yesterday (1) day: 11.0.

Woncestranks won case
Woncestranks won case
Woncestranks and Frank kunings 43.7 (T S
Cares 113, T M Moody 70, W P C Weston 52.
M W Bowen 5-98.
M W Bowen 5-98.
MOTTINGHAMSHIRE - Flust Impings 196 for 3
(P R POBER 31. R T Robinson 80).
Unspires: N T Piews and T E Jesty.

THE OWAL Survey (Spin), with two first-brokens withouts streeting, trull Scenariost (4) by 254 mats. Today: 11.0.

Sontenset war 2008 SOMERCEST - First busings 463 (R J Handen 136no, P D Bowler 63, S Hazberg 56, M N Lati-

A J Tudor not out 3
Extras (nz. kg. w4, nb5) 23
Total (nr 8, 75 evens) 209
Feb 1.94, 2408, 3420, 4424, 5421, 8424, 7472, 8-206.

res: B Dudieston and J H Harris.

. HOVE: Scarces (Apts), with three first-lim windows standing, level Horthersptomethr by 96 runs. Today: 11.0.

Sussex v Norther

Surrey v Somerset

RSHIRE - Second lookings 8 for

L-First lumbage 2011 for 6 (D C Boom

ines: K.E. Palmer and P. Willey

Lancashire v Durham

Unsalres: G I Bustess and R Palmer.

Leleastershire y Gleucs

and now purious

DEREYSHIRE - Second lankings
K.J Barneri c Llong b Hisadley
A \$ Rollins c Eatham b Headley

Extras (b1) _____ Fotal (for 2, 15,2 overs) __

their blessings

reports from The Oval Somerset 463 Surrey 209-8

The rain which allowed only 69 minutes play here was a mixed blessing. Surrey, who with two first-innings wickets left still need 105 to avoid the follow-on, will have been well pleased while Somerset are now going to struggle to win a match which was theirs for the taking and will have been less than enchanted. A start was not made until six

Northamptonshire won toss

N C Philips not out Extres (62, 67; nb30)..... Total (for 7, 105 overs)

Middlesex won toss

To bet: A A Khan, M A Robinson

NORTHAND TONSHINE - First loolings 33.5 (R R Montgomente 68, D J Capel 57, J N Snepe 55; M A Robinson 6-78).

Felt: 1-5, 2-15, 3-137, 4-263, 5-288, 6-303,

Bowling: Mohammad Alexan 22-2-118-3; Taylor 20-7-52-2; Curran 9-3-32-0; Snape 16-4-55-0; Emburay 14-2-39-1; Capel 13-1-57-1; Pemberthy 11-1-49-0.

1; Periberthy 11-1-49-0. Usualness: A Clarison and A G T Whitehead.

Other first-class matches

mbridge Univ v Middle

MEDOLESEX - Flost Leadings 359 for 2 dec (P E Wellings 128no, M W Gatting 160 ret hurt)

Did not but: P'E Wellings, "M W Gisting, R L Johnson, J P Hewet, K P Dutch, A R C Fraser,

Bowling: How 10.4-2-68-1; Schaffter 8-3-19-0; Freeth 8-0-31-1; House 3-0-20-0; Jones 7-

Unmires: H D Bird and N G Cowley.

ABDOLESEK – Second Invings (Overnight: 154 for 2) J C Pooley not out. If R Brown not out. Extras (15, 182, w2) Total (for 2, 28.4 overs)

EXS: Cambridge University drew with

Whether this hundred will

minutes past 12 and in the remaining time before lunch Ian Salisbury showed that he is a competent enough batsman, defending surely and picking up runs where he could. He is a more than useful acquisition for Surrey if only he can build up the confidence to make the most of his ability. Surrey's batsmen should score

enough runs to make him more Derbyshire, last season's runwith flight and spin.

The wicket to fall was that of Martin Bicknell, who tried to flick a ball from Andy Caddick to fine leg and was out to an outstanding diving left-handed catch by the wicketkeeper Rob Turner. It began to rain during the lunch interval.

Surrey will be hoping, in spite of the forecast, that the weather changes for all the proposed frolics which have been arranged for tomorrow's Sunday League game. On Sundays Surrey will be

known as the Surrey Lions. Each batsman will be accomnanied to the crease by his chosen piece of music; there will be a larger than life Lion mascot; a painter and a clown for the children; and the team theme song will frequently echo round the ground and doubtless Sir Jack Hobbs will turn in his grave.

un have a fight on their

bands to avoid defeat in their opening match at Canterbury after their bowlers let Kent off the hook yesterday morning. Set 337 to win, they reached 59 for 2 before rain halted play for the day in mid-afternoon.

third-wicket pair, Chris Adams and Dean Jones, unbeaten on 33 and 19 respectively. To make matters worse for Derbyshire, there were groin injuries to Philip DeFreitas, who earlier finished with 7 for 64 -

Much will depend today on the

his best for Derbyshire - and Dominic Cork, who will miss the one-day games tomorrow and on Monday. In addition Andy Hayhurst tore a cartilage in his right knee after falling awkwardly in the

field and 47-year-old Australian coach Les Stillman was called upon to take over from him. Kent's last four wickets added 153, with Paul Strang making 69

McCague hitting an unbeaten 53. maiden championship century Sussex's hopes of establishing a commanding first-innings lead over Northamptonshire at Hove.

The 25-year-old from Crawley, who resumed on 91 with the hosts 344 for 6, had advanced to 107 when rain cut short the day after only 55 minutes' play. Sussex, 29 ahead overnight, stretched their lead to 96, reach-

ing 411 for 7.

The defending champions Leicestershire's hopes of starting the season with a victory were also hit by the weather. Not a ball was bowled at Grace Road, where the hosts hold a 62run lead over Gloucestershire. who are eight without loss in their second innings.

The day was made all the doomicr for Leicestershire when they learned that they had failed to sign the South African allrounder Neil Johnson as their overseas player to replace Phil Simmons for this season. John-

at a run a ball and Martin son had agreed to join but was also under contract with the Keith Newell completed his Northern League side Netherfield. Leicestershire's offer of by Netherfield and Johnson will play league cricket instead. There was no play either at Old

Trafford, where Durham are the visitors, but Lancashire's new £1.25m indoor cricket centre was opened by the club president, als Brian Statham, Lancashire's England captain. Mike Atherton. was also present and said: "These facilities are right up there with # 15:

at Lord's, one at Headingley on los and along with Old Trafford they will be the best three in England. "see 23, others only 10 balls could be bowled before Cambridge University's (21-16 match against Middlesex was shandoned as a draw because of each by the best. There is a good facility

abandoned as a draw because of nov by rain. Dickie Bird was awarded life 22: the membership of Cambridge Unier 6: 10 cm by certify Cricket Club to mark his intention list appearance at Ferner's before use 16: 21: the retirement. The presentation 12:1-17. his retirement. The presentation 3.1 was made by the former England : North No. batsman, Derek Randall, who done now coaches the University side. : (1 Yakan 21: R Dpo

1 bt Dounte 3): France (A Botebut ant test to heaten 21-1 1-19 73-15 Samaranch visits 2002 Games site

ough bue

Olympic Games

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the USC International Officers International Olympic Com-e world, nee mission president, has made a notes to ov visit to Salt Lake City, Utah, the sfford 4-6 6 in the AIP Ic venue for the 2002 Winter outsisted with Colympics. Samaranch met with local only loss in the

leaders and attended a Utah Jazz 5 Serg Brugh NBA play-off game on Thurs-mass 1 PS day. He was scheduled to com- Charg (US) 3. plete his two-day visit yesterday. 12,885. 8 t. h. After a quick tour of West toya 1501 Valley City's new hockey arena 5: 11.4 Cos1 : Samaraneh visited the Mormor in 1.851: 13.4 Cos1 : Church president, Gordon E 18 ! Hennan it Hennan in Light L

hich Ulah won 106-86.

Samaranch's schedule also in Sanches Vesso 18 by 106-86 at 107 by 10 which Utah won 106-86. cluded a tour of the Universi Creat: 18 4 Coversor (US) of Utah campus and For mi; 12 R Habsald Douglas where the Athlete of Popular (II) 18 School (III) 1

Village is planned, a news con the mountain venues for the mountain venues for the 2002 Games.

2002 Games.

TODAYC

April 18 Pouls 14 (18) 8 Pouls 14 (18) 18

TODAY'S

ECH OPEN Singles Main to M Tabora (Co g (Aux) for a Sonothea (Fr) beat F Rong (Sp) (Sp) by L Paes (and

McMillan retires from the ring McMillan, who traded on

speed and pure boxing skills.

produced his most dazzling

performance at the right time

when he claimed the WBO

crown from Italy's Maurizio

Stecca, a former Olympic gold

The future then looked rosy

medallist, in May 1992.

ment from the sport.

McMillan lost his British title to Paul Ingle in January and af-ter four months of deliberation

feel it's time for me to call it a day and move on. "I couldn't get motivated for the last fight against Ingle. Once you've fought at world lev-

el it's hard to get yourself motivated for other fights against some of the young, hungry guys who want to get your scalp on their record as a former world

champion."

Oxford Univ v Yorkshire THE PARKS: No play yesterday. Oxford Uni-versity draw with Yorkshire. Yorkshire won toss YORKSHIRE – First lankage 335 for 2 dec (D Byes 126no, A McGrath 105no. M D Moron 53).

TORKSHIRE - Second bullege 275 for 2 (9 Parker 138no, M P Vaughan 109). Other matches SECOND XI CHAMPIONESIEP (Final day of throug) Lichridges Michices, 247 (S.P. McCe, 105; U. Atzail 4-31) and 85 for 2: Nothinghereshire 321, IN Actio 120no; JC Hamison 4-661. Mistely

OGFORD UNIVERSITY - First lendings 114.

Starting today Tomorrow

ONE-DAY MATCH (The Ports): British Uni some v remainte (11.30). 2.0 Information of the Annual Control of the Colin McMillan, the former World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, vesterday announced his retire-

has decided to pursue a career on the other side of the ropes. "I didn't want to rush into a decision." McMillan, 31, said. "I wanted to think it through and weigh up everything and now I

Colombia's Ruben Palacio.

for McMillan, but his career was cruelly turned on its head in his first WBO defence against The Barking stylist sustained a dislocated shoulder which forced the referee to stop the fight in the eighth round. McMillan never really recov-

Steve Robinson, the new holder of his former title. He regained the British title 11 months ago by outpointing Doncaster's Jonjo Irwin in a

ered from that setback. After an operation and 13 months out of the ring he was outpointed by

chance never came his way again.

back after holding the world title. I'm sad in a way that I never realised my full potential because the injury came along and was a problem for the next couple of years.
"When I beat Stecca I felt at

knew it would be a hard route

the time that there was still more to come, but everything came to halt after the shoulder trouble just at the time I thought I was reaching the highest level. I made a costly miscalculation against Ingle and I'm more annoyed with myself than anything else.

"I didn't think he was so fit and mentally prepared as he was and I tried to fight his fight. But I believe that if I had boxed him I'd have beaten him.

"I don't have the appetite to go through it all again. But I don't want to move too far away thriller at Dagenham but the big from boxing and I will possibly train fighters in the future."

Starks, who was presented with

Miami's fast start to play-off

Voshon Lenard outscored

Basketball

The Miami Heat raced to a 25point first-quarter lead before beating Orlando Magic 99-64. Orlando's points total equalled the National Basketball Association record for fewest points in a play-off game.

With a 35-10 advantage, the Heat held the second-largest lead after one quarter in league play-off history. Milwaukee led Philadelphia 40-14 in 1970. The Magic have never won a play-off series after losing the first game. The second game

takes place tomorrow.

Orlando 11-10 in the first period and finished with 24 points, including six three-pointers. The Magic made just 26 of 85 shots. Miami's Alonzo Mourning had 12 points, 11 rebounds and six blocked shots. Tim Hardaway added 13 points and

Four players took turns guarding Orlando's Penny Hardaway, who was 6-for-16 and scored 13 points. His team-mate Derek Strong had 15

In the other play-off game in

his Sixth Man Award trophy prior to the game for being the best reserve player, put the Knicks ahead for the last time with one of their five three-pointers in the fourth quarter. Allan Houston, the player

quarter as the Knicks pulled away after losing a 13-point halftime lead.

Starks lost his starting job to at the start of this season, added three three-pointers and scored 13 of his 25 points in the final

Starks and Houston were In the other play-off game in smong five Knicks' players in New York, the Knicks beat the double figures on a night when Charlotte Homets 109-99. John Patrick Ewing scored only 15.

NUMBER

The number of declared runners for today's meeting at Market Rasen. With only 88 stables on the course, clerk of the course Charles Moore . has has asked trainers with runners in later races to arrive as late as possible.

sport

Since nursery or feeder clubs are prohibited under FA rules, the practice has been restricted, albeit informally, to Merseyside

The bizarre thought occurred to me, after watching Manchester United the concept of nursery clubs. The since Home Farm's most famous expectations and the concept of nursery clubs. The since Home Farm's most famous expectations and the concept of nursery clubs. The since Home Farm's most famous expectations are thought occurred to me. and Liverpool lose to Borussia Dortmund and Paris Saint-Germain respectively, that Oxford United remain as our sole representative in Europe - if, that is, one takes the alleged association between the First Division club and the Italian

giants Juventus seriously.

In fact, it should be taken with a liberal pinch of salt. The notion of Oxford operating as a so-called nursery club to the team that will probably retain the European Cup is described by the Oxford chairman, Robin Herd, as "very exciting." vet dismissed by the Italians as nothing but "wild imagination" - which sug-gests there must have been crossed wires somewhere between Turin

So, no Del Piero and Co on show at the Manor Ground, then.

means the game there supports a system whereby the big clubs regularly "park" young or fringe players at the smaller clubs to fare le orse (literally, make their bones); and Juve and Avellino have traditionally enjoyed that kind of loose relationship.

In England, however, reserve team football serves that purpose (don't let anyone persuade you oth-erwise, that reserve team results actually matter), and since nursery or "feeder" clubs are prohibited anyway under FA and Football League rules, the practice has been restricted, albeit informally, to Merseyside. Everton have for a while enjoyed an association with Home Farm which has led to the Irish side changing their name to Home Farm Everton and playing in Everton blue (quite what Everton have got out of it is questionable

Liverpool); while Liverpool themselves recently announced "an alliance" with Crewe aimed primarily at bringing about "closer liaison between the training and coaching staffs of both clubs with regard to the development of young players", and which in no way threatens the smaller club's autonomy. Appar-

The tryst began sweetly on Valen-tine's Day, but is anything but ro-mantic. While it obviously suits Liverpool to have first option on young players of the calibre of Fran Tierney, Gareth Whalley and Dan-ny Murphy, football has always prided itself on its championing of the underdog, on nurturing the dream that David will one day overcome Goliath; and with memories of the cup exploits of Chesterfield and Stockport still fresh in the

Olivia Blair



ON SATURDAY

minds of football idealists, you can understand those who believe such alliances will end up stripping small-er clubs of their identities. "It could be a visionary move

which we know makes sense," admits Jules Hornbrook of the Crewe fanzine Super Dario Land. "But where results are insignificant and

Unhappily, it might become the only option open to smaller clubs who, without a sugar daddy on the horizon, find their existence threatened by an acute lack of cash in these post-Bosman times. Give any beleaguered club chairman the choice between becoming bankrupt or between becoming bankrupt or becoming a nursery club, and I think
I know which option he'd choose.

Blair (she arrived, incidentally, with timing reminiscent of Gary Linek-Hull City, for example, currently under threat from a winding up order, wouldn't have had to undersell their 19-year-old goalkeeper extra-ordinaire, Roy Carroll, to Wigan for £300,000 had they been a feeder club for, says, Leeds United.

OK, so they'd have to accept that Carroll - and their best players would eventually move on but

Of course were the practice ever to become commonplace, Leeds might be more likely to seek an alliance with Hull than they would do with their traditional rivals, Bradford. er at his peak, between Final Score

and Match of the Day). But Bill Hunter, chairman of Scottish Second Division side Livingston, has a more worthy reason. for his preoccupation; namely, that an alliance between an English and a Scottish club would avoid the kind of conflict of interests that might arise between clubs operating in the

passion has already been stripped that's already reality for all but the from the game and this is another step towards a nondescript system would guarantee them surtish Second Division side, albeit one he describes as having "a vast, untapped potential", might sound faintly ludicrous. Hunter is adamant that Livingston are going places, and that the alliance would be mutual-

ly beneficial.

Hunter's view has not always been appreciated by his more tra-ditional contemporaries. "I'm perceived as something of a radical." he admits. "But in football you have to have vision, and I honestly believe that Livingston will be in the Premier Division within the next seven years." Unless there are enough chairmen out there who genuinely share Hunter's optimism, then the idea of nursery clubs could mature very quickly in the seasons to come. Whether we like

Adams revels in power of positive thinking

o how are you feeling?"
"I'm feeling really good...Oh, you mean physically. Well, my ankle's still a problem."

Thus did Tony Adams reply to the first question put to him at England's Bisham Abbey HQ vesterday. Mental fitness, rather than bodily fitness, is the first thing on his mind these days.

It would be wrong to cast Adams as a man haunted by his past, though when The Independent's photographer asked him to pose behind a door be replied, "No thanks, it'll look as if I'm back in prison." He is cause of the problem. "In the just understandably aware past I would simply have of it when confronted by the

media. These days Adams is more interested in looking forward. When asked if he could have been a Matthias Sammer if his Georgia arrived in England 1-0 loss to Italy. "England were development had not been shackled by George Graham he replied: "I'm a better defend-

er than he is, let's be positive." He is, but it is Adams' liberation, as a player under Ar-Alcoholics Anonymous (something of a misnomer in his

case), that has caught the eye. Adams used to be defensive in interviews. Now he is almost irritatingly clever, talking around the most banal of questions like a politician on the stump – perhans his new staywatching too many election

There are a couple of sig-Unlike the politicians he is at pains to answer questions with self-searching honesty and pro-

Glenn Moore meets the England defender who has put his problems behind him and is enjoying his new-found freedom and maturity

bites. But back to that injured ankle. Bearing in mind the mess Italy made of an Adams- a problem and it is up him. I less defence in the last World Cup tie, will it keep him out of England's Wembley date with

Georgia on Wednesday? That rather depends on Glenn Hoddle, explained Adams who sat out training be-

am honest with everyone involved and the responsibility is

The injury is a legacy of attempting to come back too soon after an operation early

this year on his ankle ligaments. "Í rushed back after two

Kipiani the optimist

yesterday intent on inflicting further damage upon Glenn Hoddle's World Cup hopes at Wembley next week.

England, beaten by Italy in their last qualifier, will be firm Georgians, but their coach, David Kipiani, refuses to write off his team's chances.

"Football is a game in which every team, no matter how small, has a chance. You can never tell beforehand what might happen," Kipiani said. We are a small nation but we at-home persona has led to have some talented young players and we are lifted by the prospect of playing at Wembley, because it is the mother of nificant differences however. football. It is every player's dream to play at the stadium."

Kipiani was there to see England's last qualifier and he went duces more than just sound- away impressed despite the

weeks when the medical advice

unlucky and created the better

chances," he said. "I don't think

England have any bad players

in their squad. I particularly like Shearer and Le Saux." Georgi Kinkladze and his Mikhail Kavelashvili, were due to drive to Georgia's base in St Albans after last night's Na-tionwide League match at Norwich. "They are due here at about midnight, so I shall be waiting up to see that they ar-

rive safely," Kipiani said.

GEORGIA SQUAD (World Cup quelifier v Eng

is three weeks. I am not doing a lot of training," he said. "I am working on the ankle, doing strengthening exercises. It needs rest more than anything. I think I have had enough operations already."

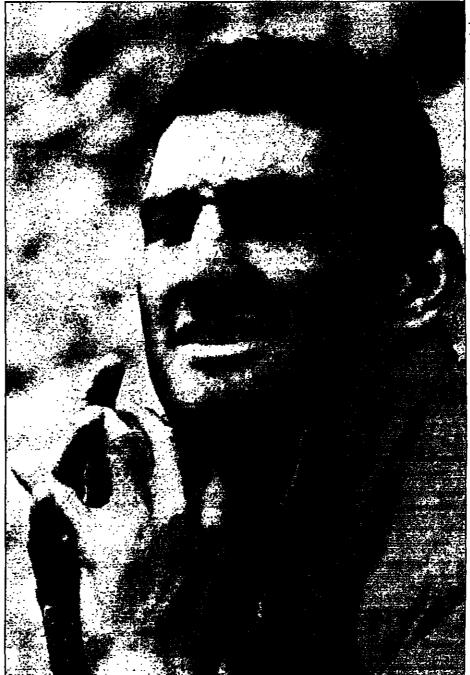
Rest, of course, is a commodity not available to international footballers at this stage of the season. "I am not 100 per cent fit but I'm trying to do my best and the manag-er [Wenger] is happy with what I am producing.

"Playing on it is not supposed to be doing me any long-term damage but I won't really know until I am 50. We have two important World Cup matches (the other is against Poland on 31May) and two very important matches for Arsenal

to play."
Rest is, however, possible in the summer and Adams may have to sacrifice England's trip to France. "I'm taking it game by game but I need to be fit for next season. The break from 10 June [England's last game in When Arsenal resume trainng] does not look very long." Next year promises much for

Arsenal but Adams, while optimistic, is making no rash claims. "It is not the Arsenal way. We've never said 'we'll be the team next year'." But he adds: "We are nearly there. The quality is as good as the 1991 team which only lost once in the League. Who knows what will happen next year?"

Who knows indeed. When, like Adams, you are taking things a day at a time, a season



Tony Adams: Used to be defensive about interviews, but now he talks around the

Ferguson may miss out again

The Blackburn Rovers mid-fielder Billy McKinlay is out of Scotland's World Cup squad for Wednesday's vital qualifier

against Sweden in Gothenburg. However, Scotland's manager, Craig Brown, must wait until today to discover if Everton's Duncan Ferguson will be involved. Reports this week have suggested that Ferguson, who has made just seven appearances for his country in five vears, could be ready to with-

draw yet again this weekend. So far no news is good news, according to Brown, who has John Spencer of Queen's Park Rangers on standby and is also hoping Bolton's John McGinlay

"Billy McKinlay is the only confirmed absentee which would leave me with 20 players, three of whom are goalkeep-ers," Brown said. "Billy has a knee injury which has been troubling him for Blackburn recently, and he is bitterly disappointed to miss out after seldom being forced to withdraw in the

past on fitness grounds." That can hardly be said of and two double-headers in the World Cup Group Four campaign so far, including the recent wins over Estonia and Austria. "I've had no communication from Everton on Ferguson," added Brown. The striker is expected to report to

Hampden today.

Brown added: "We will monitor John McGinlay's position with Bolton tonight [Friday]. If he is involved [against Charlton], we will see if there is a reaction, and if not then we might look at it, as he would have

Bottom clubs prepare for shoot-out at the KO corral

With a fortnight to go in the sea-son, the particular agonies of promotion and relegation will be gripping sides throughout the Nationwide League this weekend, but nowhere will the presfoot of the Third Division. There six clubs are teetering over the abyse that separates them from non-League football, knowing that by next Saturday

one of them will disappear into the GM Vauxhall Conference. Brighton are currently three points adrift in bottom spot, but Hereford, Hartlepool, Exeter, Doncaster or Darlington could swap places with them yet. With Brighton scheduled to visit second-from-bottom Hereford on the final day, a nerve-jangling de-

Provided Brighton get at least as many points from their home game against Doneaster this afternoon as Hereford manage at Leyton Orient, the relegation issue will rest on the outcome of that match. And this year, unlike the previous three, the League's 92nd club stands no chance of a reprieve on the grounds that the Conference champions' stadium is not up to standard.

Although next Saturday's fixture has captivated both sets of supporters - a sell-out crowd of 8.500 is virtually assured - the Hereford director of football, Graham Turner, is somewhat less enthralled. "Even over the last few weeks when we have slipped to second from bottom. I thought and hoped that everything would be settled beforehand and it wouldn't be significant," he said, "But it looks more and more likely that it will be vital for both of us."

Brighton have never won a

Jon Brodkin examines the pressures on teams trying to preserve League status

and their away record this sea-son - one win and only 11 goals in 22 matches - is unrivalled for sheer awfulness. Turner, however, attaches little importance to such statistics, "I think the fear factor will be decisive," he said. "Whichever side alleviates it will do better. It's up to our experienced players like John Williams and Tony Agana to help us, but even

they're getting edgy." Both sides should also prepare for the unexpected. In 1987, Torquay were saved from demotion when a police dog bit one of their players. During the time novement appears likely. added on for the stoppage, Paul Dobson scrambled a goal which

sent Lincoln down instead. The tight finish to this season had seemed implausible at the turn of the year. Brighton, plagued by turmoil and deprived of two points by the in-discretions of their own supporters, trailed Hereford by seven points on 1 January, having played a game more.

Now, thanks to Gritt and sheer determination, Brighton's destiny is in their own hands. Steve Gritt, the manager, has hauled a doomed side back from the brink. If they win their two remaining games it is likely they will survive for another season of League football. This season's struggle has

been a novel and unpleasant experience for Turner, whose previous appointments at Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton Shrewsbury, and Aston Villa were peppered with promotions and championships. The auguish has been League match at Edgar Street all the greater given that he ly out of trouble themselves."

guided Hereford to the Third Division play-offs last year. "Nothing I've done in 19 years as a manager prepared me for what I'm feeling at the moment," he said, "This is a totally new experience and one I could do without. People talk about pressure when you're chasing champi onships but it pales into insignif icance compared to being near the bottom of the Third Division.

Even bring relegated from the First or Second Division can't compare. At least then you maintain your League status and continue to play against similar clubs. Finishing bottom of the Football League means dropping into the unknown.

It's a massive blow." The experience of the five teams who have been demoted since 1987 indicates that loss of League status is not necessarily a one-way ticket to oblivion. Although Newport have folded and Halifax currently languish in the lower reaches of the Conference, Lincoln, Darlington and Colchester have returned stronger from their brief non-League sojourus.

"Any team that can maintain a full-time squad has a good chance," Turner said. "But we haven't given that a moment's thought yet. We've got the next two games to get through first."

Turner acknowledges that Hereford will be the most likely victims of Brighton's revival. but remains confident. "It's certainly in our favour that Orient have nothing to play for against us today whereas Brighton have Doncaster, who aren't definite-

Fight for survival Bottom of Third Division

Four decades of . ups and downs Leasure clubs had to seek re-election

each year and new teams were . . . 1982 Accrington St 1970 Bradford PA

troduced, the GN Vauhall Conference champlins replacing the bottom club in the Football League, in 1991 and

1987 Lincoln City

not meet Football League standards

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General election

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THE INDEPENDED

sport

Why Barnsley is obsessed by one subject

Guy Hodgson finds a town where the general election comes a poor second to the unlikely prospect of the Yorkshire club reaching the top division for the first time

next seven days offer displeasure were paying attention to the proper priorities in Barusley this week. Simon Gutteridge, for example, can tell you the year the town's football team last nearly made it to England's top division, not to mention when they won the FA Cup. Which is not bad for an outsider from "down south" who has

a few things on his mind at the moment: like standing as a Con-servative Party candidate in a Labour stronghold so mighty it could be a fortress, and the littie matter of overturning a 19,000 majority in Barnsley Central. Yet, fact perfect, he rattled off

statistics like a Tyke. 1922: missed out on the First Division by a fraction of goal average; 1915: finished third in the Second Division, a place below the promotion teams; 1912: winners of the FA Cup. The litany of near misses and one direct hit is repeated like a prayer. Barnsley is about as obsessed

on one subject as it could be. A local brewery, Elsecar's, is preparing a special ale, Barnsley's Glory Bitter, while in the Alhambra Shopping Centre people talk of little else. A general election may be in process but the ups and downs of the parties mean little when promotion is the topic on every- a knee injury to wreck his one's lips. After 109 years of

A win today over Bradford City in front of a 19,500-capacity crowd at Oakwell and that will be it - Barnsley will be rubbing shoulders with Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool and taking part in a league that was designed for city slickers rather than small-town chibs.

"Tve been living on my nerves for weeks now," Paul Grunill, a 37-year-old lifelong supporter, said yesterday. "Twenty-six hours before the match starts and I'm finding it hard to concentrate on anything else.

Grunill is typical of the line that runs through the club's fans as his family have supported Barnslev since the Twenties at least. "Promotion would mean a lot to me on many levels." he said. "I will be celebrating for my grandfathers who are now dead, my father who is blind and can't go to matches any more, and my son, Edmund, who has caught the disease of supporting the club through me.

Better known Barnsley supporters include Michael Parkinson, Charlie Williams, Stan Richards (Seth Armstrong from the television soap Emmerdale) and Dickie Bird, the former Test umpire, who signed amateur forms for the club at 15, only for chances of a career in the game.

wen those for whom the next seven days offer disagree about to cross the threshold into the big time.

| best I have seen since 1948 and the days of Danny Blanch-flower," Bird said. "There are some fabulous youngsters coming through the club's youth policy and they play real football, beautiful football, not just kick--into-the-stand stuff."

If Barnsley succeed the achievement will be enormous. This is a club whose record transfer fee, £310,000, would pay Fabrizio Ravanelli's wages for only eight weeks and who have got to the precipice of promotion while playing with two veteran strikers who were surplus to Middlesbrough's requirements. The fact Barnsley might swap places with Middlesbrough at the end of the year is a delicious thought for those who bemoan that money shouts in football.

To be honest I could have

staved at Middlesbrough and spent the season sat on the bench," said John Hendrie, who has been promoted four times before with Boro, Leeds and Bradford. "But Danny Wilson [the manager] was very persuasive. He said: 'Listen John, you're not coming to a dead-end club. We play good football and we have a good chance of going up'."
Pani Wilkinson, the other

Boro reject, told him much the same. "I never expected to be playing with Wilko again but he was very enthusiastic. He told me: Don't think you're dropping



Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, preparing yesterday for today's crucial promotion match against Bradford City

ley are a good team'." At 34, and costing £250,000, he was about to become the First Division's bargain buy of the season.

Ask him why Barnsley have defied expectation and he admits his answer is predictable. "There's a wonderful team spirit," he said. "I know everyone says that if they have a bit of success but the players are prepared to work hard for each other here.

"The standard of play is very good too and we pass the ball about a bit. I'm proud that we have played our way to the verge of promotion and not just kicked our way there.

"The people round here easwill face the question that howalways thought we'd be there or ers over Barnsley's success: can thereabouts. Maybe not automatic promotion but the playoffs certainly. There's been no pressure, they've left us to get on with it, but I think they've always fancied our chances. It's just the rest of the nation that's taken until the last few weeks

صكدا من الأصل

to cotton on." Hendrie will not talk about promotion until the mathematics have been fully satisfied ~ "Football has this nasty habit of kicking you in the teeth - until we get into the Premiership I don't they survive in the top division? John Dennis, who owns a wholesale fresh food business,

is the club chairman. "We've been the bookies' favourite for relegation for 12 years out of the last 15," he said. "We are on the brink of history, but it would be foolish to minimise the problems we'll have next year if we go up." Dennis, who has master-

minded the redevelopment of Oakwell with two new all-seat stands and an excellent playing surface, says he has endured "the mood swings of a runkie"

during the promotion run-in. "I'm 46 and look 90 at the moment," he said.

Paul Grunill believes "the achievement is in getting pro-motion to the Premiership, not playing in it." He added: "Personally I find the emphasis on money in the top division a big turn-off. I want them to do ourselves justice but if things do turn out badly I hope the board will not panic. If we struggle next sca-son it won't make Danny Wilson

any less of a good manager."
Meanwhile, Simon Gutteridge was still knocking on doors attempting to persuade people will come next year.

to vote Tory when the Labour party could put up a sheep and win an endorsement of the electorate. A likely loser in a town about to embrace a great sporting victory, he was defiant. "You can't concede defeat," he said, "although I accept it will take a lot of luck on a very good day for me to succeed. I remain hopeful. I like a challenge.

Barnsley, whose odds of gaining promotion at the start of the season were only slightly better than Gutteridge's becoming an MP on Thursday, are having

Bjornebye is relieved despite European exit

Stig Inge Bjornebye yesterday revealed that Liverpool's desire to prove the doubters wrong provoked the performance that almost realised a European. Cup-Winners' Cup miracle against Paris St-Germain on Thursday, and which he believes will bring the reward of a European Cup place.

Liverpool came close to overturning a three-goal deficit for the first time since entering Continental competition 32 years ago in their semi-final, second leg at Anfield but fell a goal

After goals from Robbie Fowler and Mark Wright had given the holders the fright of their lives, Bjornebye dedicated Liverpool's show of defiance to those who have branded them a bunch of fancy dans lacking the heart to match the best

whenever the going gets tough.
We are very disappointed to have gone out because we feel that over the two games we were good enough to go to Rotterdam to play Barcelona in the final," he said. "But there's also a sense of relief as well because we got some pride back after that performance.

Walking down the Manny

Road to see the Burnden

aces". That 102-year tra-

dition came to an end for

fans of Bolton Wanderers

last night when Charlton

Athletic became the final

visitors to Burnden Park for

Who can forget Nat Loft- return.

sixth-round tie with Stoke City, wide League outfit.

eller-coaster ride in the last 10 Live colleague Jimmy Armfield,

ears, down to the depths of the a Bolton manager in the 70s, say

flight as the most convincing of we all thought was going to be

But, whatever its name, it will never be Burnden Park...

house, the teenager plucked

when 33 people died following

ien terraces?

Coventry, getting beat in Paris and then playing poorly against Manchester United but we showed that the criticism we've had for a lack or pride or a lack of heart or whatever people want to call it is rubbish.

"We showed those people that we are prepared to die for the club and in the end we are very unlucky to be going out of the competition." When Fowler scored his 31st

goal of the campaign, and his eventh in Europe, in what was his last club game of the season with a three-match ban about to start, Liverpool were rampant and looking well capable of avenging their 3-0 surrender in the Parc des Princes two weeks

However, despite battering Paris they had to wait until 11 minutes from time before Wright headed the second goal from Bjornebye's corner.

"We needed an early goal and we got it," the Norwegian said.
"When we got the second one with 10 or so minutes left I thought we were going to do it and if we had managed to take in Europe."

FAN'S EVE VIEW

No 215 Burnden Park

By David Hulmes

The bulldozers will move in up the road at Old Trafford, ran

along Manchester Road, when away with the old Second Divi-

the ground, is sold to carve up sion in the mid-70s. But Burn-

"We've had some disap-the game into extra time then pointing results lately, losing to we would have been cruising. "There's no doubt that Paris were afraid of us and they were hicky to get away with it because we had a few chances to get the

third goal as well. "We lost the game but we should be happy about the other things we showed. We showed our pride and played some good football. It was a quality performance."

Liverpool have three games to show that this is no false dawn after seeing their Premiership title dream disappear after Manchester United's 3-1 Anfield win last Saturday.

Nine points would bring the runners-up spot and the European Cup place that now goes with it.

"It's important that we carry that on by getting the results we need in our last three games to claim that second European Cup place," Bjornebye said. That would be a nice reward for us. We've been a bit inconsistent but no one should forget the fact that we have also played some great football and we've learned a lot from playing

but which now occupies half of the Embankment. And what are we get ting instead? The Reebok Stadium. Catchy name huh? We are promised an all-seater venue fit for the 21st century and, from

what I've seen, this out-ofprofessional football match. the Red Enemy, a dozen miles town arena does indeed look mightily impressive: sprouting up in a spaceship kind of a way by some fields close to the mo

this famous site, where the ups den Park - whose terracing has and downs, triumphs and clung on to the bitter end, ac-The attendant entertainmen tragedies would have provided companied by the delightfully village—comprising a multiplex dated wooden stands—will not cinema. US-style restaurants, witness the Trotters' triumphant bowling alley, shopping complex, motel, gym and other No longer will the fat cats leisure facilities - could not be from the nearby mines to be- come to conquer in the cup further removed from the aged come the epitome of post-war competitions only to be treat- feel of the terraced houses that English centre-forwards and ed like dogs - the Wanderers are crammed up close to one ion-hearted hero of the Burn- have seen off Arsenal, Aston side of Burnden But, I ask you, couldn't a club

Villa, Chelsea, Everton, Liver-We will remember the pool and lottenham in the last with the proud tradition of tragedy of the 1946 FA Cup four years while still a Nation- Bolton Wanderers have come up with something more origi-No more will Alan Green be nal than naming their new the collapse of crush barriers on able to say: "Welcome, folks, to ground solely after the club's the steep Embankment ter-Tace. The lesson that too many by is no better place to be on a Reebok end their spousorship?

People were being squeezed Tuesday or Wednesday night. Even Middlesbrough, the that this atmospheric old embodiment of hig bucks and

went unheeded, given the dissters at Ibrox in 1971 and the possibility of another famous retain some dignity when nam-Misborough eight years ago. cup usset. And for the last time, ing their new home the Cellnet we've heard Green's Radio Five Riverside Stadium. Surely, even the Brand Spanking New Fit For The Pointh Division in 1987 and up at his old stamping ground:
Millennium Close To The What happened there was.
What happened there was.
Fields Just Off The M61 States are rid of The dium has more of a ring to it.
But at least we are rid of The dium has more of a ring to it. Now they are back in the top Superstore. You know, the one than the Reebok Stadium?

Rudge rallies his Vale troops

John Rudge will take Port Vale into their First Division game against their Midlands rivals, Wolves, tomorrow by telling his team: "This is our Cup final." Vale have never been so close to the top flight but their

play-off hopes will be under threat if they fail to beat Wolves at Vale Park "I doubt if the club has ever had a more important game," said Rudge, who saw Vale's promotion hopes dented by last Sunday's 2-0 defeat in the Potteries derby at Stoke. We know we have to take all three points and we'll have to go for it from the off," he added. Wolves' chances of claiming

the second automatic promotion place suffered a setback on Wednesday when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Grimsby. But their manager, Mark McGhee, aware that the sides could meet again in the play-offs, is determined to prevent Vale gaining a psychological advantage. "We don't want to lose and

give them a confidence booster ahead of a possible play-off meeting," he said. McGhee is hoping either Stephen Froggatt or Michael Gilkes will be passed fit to play. The Northern Ireland man-

ager, Bryan Hamilton, has allowed the winger Jon McCarthy to report late for a World Cup qualifier in Armenia, freeing him to face Wolves, who will be without Don Goodman, who has a hamstring problem.

Crystal Palace welcome Dougle Freedman back for their

visit to struggling Swindon and will be looking for a win to boost their play-off hopes while Queen's Park Rangers and Tranmere, who could both still make the top six, meet at Loftus Road. The Second Division leaders, Bury, need a point at Watford

to seal a second successive promotion under Stan Terneut. Bury were languishing near the foot of the Third Division and in danger of dropping out of the Football League when Ternent took over 18 months ago - but he steered them to promotion last season and is poised to do so again despite only a modest outlay on play-

The Third Division spotlight will be on the bottom club, Brighton, who must beat Doncaster in their final game at the Goldstone Ground if they are to have any chance of preserving their League status. Secondfrom-bottom Hereford, who are three points above Brighton. travel to Leyton Orient today and face the Seagulls at Edgar Street in a week's time.

Middlesbrough players rue missed chance

hard-hitting dressing-room in though we've played so many and Leeds. quest into Middlesbrough's lat-est defeat, at Spurs on Thursday, shouldn't have been a problem. "We've got to pick ourselves "He didn't lose his head in a up, and at least we've got a nice big way because that's not his which left the Teessiders still five points adrift of the safety mark with only four games in the space of nine frenetic days next month to avoid the nightmare double of two Wembley cup finais and relegation.

there was no time for any of the Boro players to feel sorry for themselves and suggested they had all let themselves down. "We should have given a stronger performance than we did. Too many of us were on cruise control," Mustoe said.

But Mustoe made it clear

"I thought we'd prepared

Robbie Mustoe launched the for the game properly, even Manchester United, Blackburn who again deputised for the in-

everything we could have. Men-tally we could have been different and the fans deserve better than that."

The self-criticism seemed harsh as it needed an outstanding display by goalkeeper Ian Walker to keep Spurs in the game before Andy Sinton stole in to grab all the points.

But Mustoe's words showed the scale of the problems now facing Bryan Robson's side, who meet Aston Villa at the Riverside Stadium before ending their campaign with trips to

dead and buried vet."

Robson shared that defiance,

la game," Mustoe said. "That's that we'd been lethargic and let a must-win game for us. We've three points get away. We all got four left and we need at least know he was right to say it as a couple of wins. But we're not well. It just reinforced it in our

pointedly refusing to criticise his players publicly, although his goalkeeper Ben Roberts revealed the manager had not been quite so calm in the privacy of the White Hart Lane ting points on board. It's hapdressing-room. "The gaffer was

jured Mark Schwarzer.
"He didn't lose his head in a

"But as a team we didn't give little break now before the Vil- way, but he told us the truth, minds. It wasn't as if we didn't have the chances, just that we didn't put them away again."

beat 1-0 in games we should be winning, and this is the time when we really have to start getpened all season really. Whenever we've got an early angry with us, but he had every right to be because it just wasn't good enough," said Roberts, games and win well."

"We just keep on getting

Di Canio reveals financial rift with Celtic

Celtic's Italian inspiration, Paolo Di Canio, has a financial problem with the Glasgow club. according to reports yesterday The former Milan player was

quoted as saying that the "problem" has developed in the past month. His revelation will merely add to Parkhead uncertainty in the wake of Celtic's Tennents Scottish Cup semi-final exit at the hands of First Division Falkirk on Wednesday.

Pierre Van Hooijdonk left the Glasgow club for Nottingham Forest earlier this year after a lengthy contract dispute with the Celtic chairman, Fergus Mo-Cann, and the Portuguese strik-er Jorge Cadete is also said to be unhappy with his terms. "I don't have the same prob-

lems as in the past with Pierre and Jorge, but they are similar, Di Canio was quoted as saying. "My problem started one month ago, but you know when

you see me on the pitch that I give all my body and energy and I don't speak about these things before the semi-final because I think I have a bigger respect for

"I go on the pitch because it is my work. I'm a lucky boy. I play football and have a lot of money from this. I have some problems, not the same, but similar, and in the future you will

Di Canio has backed the under-fire Celtic manager, Tommy Burns, saying he should receive support from McCann. Di Canio, who has deputised as captain for Celtic in the absence of Paul McStay in recent weeks, will have his season cut

The Italian is available for Celtic's visit to Hibernian on Sunday 4 May, but will serve a two-match Scottish Football Association suspension following a controversial booking from the referee Willie Young passion for the club and supagainst Falkirk. He will be banned for the 7

May game against Kilmarnock at Parkhead and the final match of the season against Dundee United on 10 May, again in Glasgow. Di Canio collected three points for the yellow card issued by Young for an alleged diving offence after a challenge by Palkirk's David Hagen.

The SFA confirmed vesterday that there was no mention in the report from referee Young of any further trouble for Di Canio, who conducted a verbal exchange with the official after his booking. However, Celtic yesterday moved quickly to issue a state-

ment from Di Canio in which he reassured supporters of his future at Parkhead, although there was no denial that there is a problem.

Di Canio said: "I am very happy at Celtic. I have a great once in a while."

porters. I have over three years of my contract to run and I am happy to honour my commitment. People should not doubt my commitment.

"I hope this will end any ru-

mours that I am anything less

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ECH OPEN Single pak) by M Tabasa (C

than happy at Celtic and in Scotland. The Celtic supporters and Scottish people could not be kinder to me and my family. Alex Ferguson yesterday paid tribute to the achievement of his former club, Falkirk, in reaching the Tennents Scottish Cup final under the guidat Falkirk and Dunfermline."

ance of one of his former team-mates, Alex Totten, "Alex was a team-mate of mine both Ferguson said. "It was an incredible result to beat Cehic. The final will be a great occusion for them and I think towns like Falkirk need the buzz something like that can give them

MAJOR WEEKEND FIXTURES & POOLS CHECK Third Division 17 Brighton v Doncaster 18 Cartiff v Carlisle 7 Bostol City v Physicists

Charles v Charlesfield 19 Colchester v Northempton.

Browning of Color Colors of Dames of Life Project Colors of Colors Queen's Park Borgers v Jannysia 23 Levent Orient v Hereford 26 Scarborough v Lincoln 27 Scurittorpe v Swerzes

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30 Femborough v Hednesford
31 Heyer v Bath City
32 Kideminister v Southport
33 Macclesteid v Bronsgove Rushden v Halifox Stevenage v Stalybridge Telford v Dover Welling v Gateshead Bell's Scottish League First Division Second Division

43 Queen of the South v Livingston 44 Stranger v Dumberton Third Division

TOMORROW Nationvide Footbali League



Hoddle sets target for Gascoigne

Football

MIKE ROWBOTTOM.



terday outlined the challenge that lies ahead for Paul Gas-

coigne if he is ever to re-establish himself in the national side. While Hoddle, who played himself until he was 38, held out hope for the Rangers player, he nevertheless made it clear that much work was still to be done before the possibility of an England return could be entertained. "I have spoken to

a year free from injury for several years and his first port of call now is to sort that out." Hoddle made clear that if Gascoigne was to return to his best after his latest ankle injury, it would require "a lot of prevention work". He added: "There change in his life. It is partly to

> do at 30 the things you used to get away with when you were 21." Asked if he felt that Gascoigne ever would play again for England, Hoddle responded: "I can't give you that answer. That

do with the mental side of things.

He has to realise that you can't

Smith at length," Hoddle said. is something that needs to be But, yeah, there are facts there "Unfortunately, Paul hasn't had addressed to Paul." But, yeah, there are facts there that need to be dealt with."

But Hoddle made it clear that Gascoigne would not be ruled out on the grounds of age alone. "There have been some very fine players at 35 years of Nowadays if you keep control of things I think there is a future for players of 34, 35. And it will be no different for Paul if he can achieve that." Hoddle played down the

perennial newspaper reports cataloguine Gascoiene's misdemeanours, without completely denying them. "Probably 75 per ing to Paul in his life is fiction.

Asked whether he would pre-

fer Gascoigne to move to an English club if - as has been rumoured - he left Rangers this summer, Hoddle replied that it would make little difference to his ability to help. "When players go back to their clubs after England matches it is a delicate situation. They are working for

their managers then."
England's training was put back yesterday to enable players from Liverpool and Spurs who had played the previous night to join up with the squad. Hoddle acknowledged that

chester United players after their European defeats this than their own pitch." While the squad is carrying week. "Obviously they are a litfewer injuries than it was in the

tle bit down, and you would ex-

talent in midfield. We shackled

pect that," he said. "But now they have to pick themselves up Hoddle reported that there were doubts over Stuart Pearce, and we have got a good spirit in the squad. Already there Ian Walker and Robbie Fowler. Pearce is suffering from a calf are a few jokes going round." Hoddle accepted that only one result was acceptable against Georgia in Wednesday's World Cup qualifier. "We have to win because this group is so right," he said. "The word is 'vigilant' for this. Georgia have got immense

injury while Walker, one of four goalkeepers in the squad. has an Achilles tendon problem. Fowler's problems appeared to be less serious - he received a knock in the match against Paris St Germain. There was some good news, too, as Hoddle was able to announce that his centre-half Tony Adams

last three or four get-togethers.

Murray yesterday backed his manager Walter Smith who criticised Paul Gascoigne in Monday's Independent However Murray also suggested that Gascoigne would be offered a new contract. "He's under contract for 15 months and although Wal-

lic I think it was the appropriate time to make it," said Murray.
"Walter said it when there was a gap period and I agree with his comments. But Rangers is bigger than Paul Gascoigne. We will sit down and hopefully extend his contract and that is all I have to say about it at the

NICK HARRIS

ter has made his thoughts pub-

United's summer ruling on **Cantona**

Manchester United yesterday sought to play down reports that Eric Cantona's future at the club is under threat.

Martin Edwards, the chief executive and chairman at Old Trafford, said: "No discussions have taken place [with Eric] because these matters are always reviewed in the close season. Fric Cantona is under contract to us for another year, and there is no issue, no justification for this kind of speculation."

However, Cantona, 31 next month, has received no firm commitment about his future since his below-par performance in Wednesday's European Champions League exit against Borussia Dortmund. and there have been suggestions that for financial reasons, he will

not get any such commitment. Decisions about the trading of players, and negotiations sur-rounding players contracts, are handled by two boards at Manchester United. The public limited company board are ultimately responsible to share-holders for all financial dealings. and the club board are responsible for the day-to-day running of the football team. The boards act in consultation with each other, but the final decision on Cantona's future lies with Martin Edwards and one non-exec-

utive director of the plc board. Cantona is thought to earn around £750,000 a year and, should United decide not to offer him a new contract they may be willing to sell him this summer rather than let his contract run out - which would allow him to leave on a free transfer.

The Israeli international midfielder and captain Tal Banin, 28, is expected to train with Liverpool next week with a view to oining the club next season. Banin is out of contract and would not command a transfer fee.

The Newcastle manager Kenny Dalglish is expected to complete the signing of the Georgian midfielder Temur Ketsbaia today. Ketsbaia's contract with AEK Athens expires at the end of the season.

Steve Stone, the Nottingha Forest midfield player who ruptured his knee in September, will not be able to play again until October.

Paul and his manager Walter In Monday's 20-page sports section



together sides capable of performing the whole range of techniques and skills. teams that can chew gum. and walk simultaneously. The one thing rugby union has over every other game you care to mention is its multi-dimensional aspect - by comparison, rugby league is terribly one-dimensional and if the only way you can win is by banging the ball in the air, you've achieved nothing. In my book, it's not just what you do, but how you do it." Bob Dwyer, Leicester's

Australian coach, talks to Chris Hewett about his first year in English rugby Glenn Moore and Phil Shaw on football That Was The Weekend

Cardiff Arms Park Derick Alisop at the San Marino Grand Prix

That Was, our alternative

What's the best way to end a nationwide water shortage? Start the cricket season...



THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3283. Saturday 26 April Last Saturday's solution

Friday's solution G SPO

ACROSS

It may well light up one's face! (5,2,3,3) 10 Train for English trip round North, on time

11 Slur makes the European carp (5) 12 Figure crack goes with

drink? (5) 13 Supplement upset Tories packing bar (9) 14 Never mind starter, cooker's working to produce a roast (7)

16 Ask about mission, plot backing reckless fire (7) 18 Finishes up the fruits 20 Comparatively low bird

sounds? (7) 21 English church tune, say, oddly included as part of suite (4-5) 23 One praised first-class accommodation, looking back (5)

24 Tipped second in race fast on the outside (5) 25 Measures restricting free and easy school (9) 26 Piano lesson? (5,8)

DOWN 2 Those in suits of satin interwoven with gilt

reports from Imola Arrest in the act (5) Attach a note written up for the European

Locked the fool up? Filthy river, river choked with lead (9)

Excuse one after a party (5) Man with Henry's quafting a port with fish, madly (4,4,5) Vehicle for girl travel-ling about Thursday

15 Is he apt to ask brief questions? (9) factless nuisance, clot I twice berated (9)

19 Disturb fish in the drink (5,2) 20 Nick, cut around yellow floral feature (7) 22 Show's dispensed with piano score (5)

23 Gangster's feeling of

the first live current southous to the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.

Answers and winners' manes will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Loudon El 4 501. Please use the box mumber and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: M Fashrook, Wolverhampton; L. Louder, Shipley; M. Jeffries, Lowestoft; M. Watson, Lofters, S. Portman, Westbeider.

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Saturday 34 April 1997 Regulated as a newspaper with the Post Office

Irvine earns Italian respect

DERICK ALLSOP

The promoters and the punters had what they wanted, and although customary Friday caution balanced the euphoria down in the Ferrari compound, they were content to claim the emer-

gence of "the real Eddie Irvine". Buoyed by his second place in . Argentina a fortnight ago, Irvine edged out his illustrious teammate, Michael Schumacher, to head the standings in unofficial practice for tomorrow's San Marino Grand Prix here.

It may, and probably will, be very different in today's qualify-ing session, both Schumacher and Irvine expecting Williams-Re-nault to assume their familiar positions at the front of the grid. Ferrari do, however, believe they are closing on the champions and Irvine is encouraged to feel he is no longer the distant partner to the imperious German.

Schumacher sought a final flourish yesterday, smoking his tyres and jumping the kerbs in a spectacular show that had the tifosi roaring their approval, and yet he failed to dislodge the Irishman by 0.016sec, barely the head of a pint of the black stuff. Irvine, not so long ago reviled and slammed by the Italian media as unworthy of a ride on the revered Prancing Horse, is suddenly being welcomed into the embrace of this country. He

may be renowned as a playboy,

but he is not seduced this time.

"One day you are a god, the next

a waste of space," he says. There again, he does concede his result in Buenos Aires has had a positive effect. "It was bound to do something," he said. "The

important thing is to keep the momentum going. One race won't convince anyone you are the reincarnation of Ayrton Senna. "Getting the fastest time today is certainly better than crawling out of the back of the

garage with 15th place. A win is not out of the question on Sunday, because we are in better

he said. "It's not that Michael is doing more than he should, but that I'm not doing enough."

If he does enough to earn another appearance on the podium here he will stand beneath the Union Jack, on the orders of Max

away from here with three points from a solid fourth place

than throw it off going for a sec-

more testing to achieve his po-tential at Ferrari. "I should be do-

ing more than I'm doing now,

Irvine is still yearning for

ond that isn't really on."



Snakebite: A new look for Raif Schumacher's Jordan

shape than a lot of the others.
"If Williams had problems with their brakes in Melbourne then they will here. They should be better in qualifying but we appear to be pushing them in the race and if we push them here

we may force them into errors." Irvine, accused by certain fellow drivers as well as some pundits of erratic and even dangerous behaviour on the track, maintains he will be circumspect in tomorrow's race. He said: "Td rather walk Mosley, the president of FIA, motor sport's governing body. Irvine, who was accompanied by the tricolour of the Irish Republic in Argentina, said: "I wanted a neutral flag and a company has offered me one with a shannock. but the matter has been taken out of my hands and I've been told

it's got to be the Union Jack." Schumacher says Irvine's elevation from mediocrity has come as no surprise to him. He said: "Eddie did a super job today, but we knew he was quick."

。2、1000年至1000年,1000年

It is the influence of an Englishman, Ross Brawn, that has reinforced Schumacher's faith in the Ferrari cause. Fresh speculation that Schumacher is destined for McLaren-Mercedes next season has been dismissed by the driver's aides as "garbage"

They say Brawn, the technical director recruited from Benetton-Renault where Schumacher twice won the championship, has already instilled his order and direction within a team notori-

ous for acting before thinking. Doubts about Benetton's sense of direction post-Schumacher have fed speculation that their managing director. Flavio Briatore, is bound for a new career move, but Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi steered a steady course to third and fourth places yesterday. Berger would doubtless settle for such a result to celebrate his 200th Grand Prix on a circuit that provides a

poignant setting for the occasion. The Austrian said: "I saw my first grand prix at Imola and I had my first Formula One podium finish here. I also had my worst accident here [in 1989] and this was where we had the tragedy of Roland Ratzenberger's and Ayrton's deaths in 1994. So it is emotional for me and special for me to have my

200th grand prix here." Johnny Herbert, the British Sauber-Petronas driver, reaches his first century here. He flexed his competitive muscles with 11th position in practice. Jacques Villeneuve, the championship leader, was fifth, David Coulthard sixth and Damon Hill 13th.

Neil, Leon & Co. To catch the polling station, catch the Eurostar from Brussels Station.

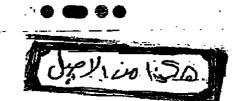
Don't get caught out on the big day - Eurostar will whip you into Waterloo in time for you to meet the polling station deadline. As you know, it goes directly from city centre to city centre (so no nasty swings either way). And it moves as fast as a candidate spying a photo opportunity, (well, almost - it only takes just over three hours). So whether you're in Brussels or Paris on election day, don't let John, Tony or Paddy down. Take the Eurostar. Unless of course you're voting Monster Raying Loony, in which case flying is a viable option.

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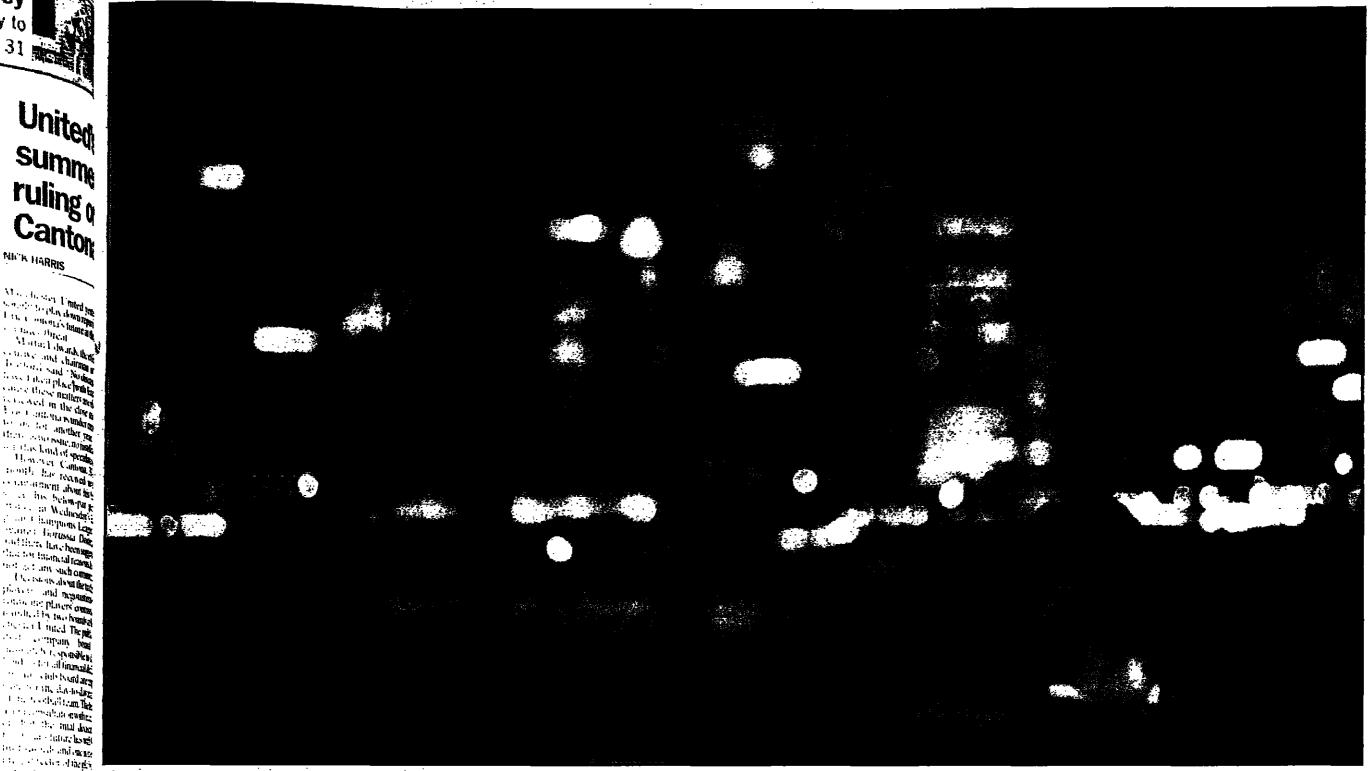
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A last embrace, a fond farewell? Two lovers stand out in sharp relief against the Hong Kong skyline. In just over one month the colony will be handed over to Chinese rule and the lives of millions - including, no and the state of the letter THE WEEK doubt, this young couple – will be changed for ever. Photograph by Tom Pilston with Fuji 800 colour negative film, 2 seconds at f2, 85mm lens. To order a print of this picture – for £14 – phone 0171-293 2534

the longweeker

know what else. The ad lady said, "You must mention the ABs". So, we've got a lot of ABs! If someone can tell me what an AB is. I'd be very grateful. They've got a lot of money? Oh, right. Anyway, it's got some fash-

ion, a lot of health ... Institute of Public Relations (IPR) chairwoman: A bit of sex? Geller: Yes, a bit of sex. And it's also got general

interest reading.

Adam Black, Loaded: Loaded wasn't founded on any particular marketing concept. This, er, "lad" category is something which has been

picked up on by others.

Peter Howarth, Esquire: We are founded on a. if you will, "great literary tradition". So, really, we'll settle for a lower circulation with the so-

called "quality vote".

Andy Clerkson, Stuff: The idea came together early last year to produce a hybrid mag of general interest and lifestyle. We thought there was space for a general interest mag, geared towards products - anything men might buy, whether it's a car or, erm, a sex aid.

Adam Black: Or using a car as a sex aid? Clerkson: We wanted to lend authority to the magazine 'cos we were afraid that, because a lot f of men's mags are sort of entertainment-based, people wouldn't believe us. So we bring in a lot of experts to talk about what they know about the latest hi-fi or whatever. In fact, we added up the value of all the products we had in one issue and it came to £28,000. So you need the

so-called "aspiration to buy" to buy Sauff. IPR chairwoman: Do you think men have moved away from looking at pictures, towards

wanting to read? Adam Black: I think it's lucky that Loaded came along when it did. 'Cos before that, in the Eighties, there was a real marketing emphasis on sort of demographics and target audiences, very much the commercial imperatives. The idea for Loaded came about at a Leeds w Barcelona match, which Leeds surprisingly won. These two guys saw the match and when they came out onto the street afterwards, they thought: We should make a magazine to replicate this feeling of euphoria." Those two guys were James

PRs tell us: 'We're the Loaded of alcopops and we want to be in your magazine because we're really funky'

The editors of the new wave lads' mags were the guests at a seminar with leading PR luminaries

Brown and Tim Southwell, the co-founders of Loaded. It is supposed to be a magazine with an honest appreciation of women. [The mainly female audience erupts into laughter at this.] Well, you know, a lot of people who don't read Loaded think it's just about naked women and getting pissed. But, the thing is, FHM broke through selling 350,000 copies by putting Jennifer Aniston, one of the most famous women in the world, on the cover. Loaded sold 330,000 with that guy from Father Ted on the cover. FHM is now outselling Loaded mainly because it's a "one-idea magazine", namely, to put famous

women on the cover. Loaded has a broader agenda. Before Loaded, magazines were sort of seen by men as a bit poncy.

Peter Howarth: Is "poncy" a technical term? Black: Loaded is not trying to tell you what clothes to wear or how to live your life; it's about being more down-to-earth. And the funny thing is, loads of people from the marketing world thought Loaded was going to fail. But it's acons ahead in the publishing world.

IPR: Do you regret the springing up of laddish Black: Well, we appreciate that the market is

The stuff of laddism

Launched: March 1991 Circulation: 111,007 In this issue: "He takes my five iron in his hands, a sight so thrilling it knocks the breath out

Launched: May 1994

of me" (on the sexiness of golf)

Circulation: 400,000

In this issue: "Helen Mirren, Britain's greatest actress. Still fit as f*ck no matter what bloody

Launched: April 1995 Circulation: 150,261

you that sex is as good as it gets, you can draw a conclusion - the

In this issue: "If a mate tells

Launched: November 1996

with making everything elec-tronic smaller?" RESEARCH: BEN WESTWOOD

Circulation: 60,592 In this issue: "If size doesn't matter, why are we obsessed

very wide. People still talk about the men's magazine market as one market. But the market is growing to the point where it's starting to replicate the women's magazine market. It's becoming quite, if you like, promiscuous. I think the key is editorial integrity. There are always going to be people who like you and people who hate you. So, no, I don't feel threatened by the

success of Loaded. IPR: Are there many opportunities for PR presented by the rise of men's magazines? Adam Black: I find that in PR, bosses are always trying to create a spin around products. This has been going too far with Loaded sometimes. We get so many people contacting us saying things

like, "We are the Loaded of alcopops and we want to be in your magazine because we're really funky". But all this jumping on the bandwagon is just not going to wash with people. Sometimes you just have to tell the client that he's not going to get it. Clients are f**king mental sometimes. At Loaded we do not do grooming.

Simon Geller: We do do grooming - we are the Loaded of conditioners.

Black: We will use product placement in a more subtle way. For example, Virgin actually helped to finance a fashion shoot because we showed the model drinking a bottle of Virgin vodka. But it didn't look too obvious. Simon Geller: We've had phone calls asking to

put something in the gardening section. I tell them that we've never had a gardening section. End of conversation. They hadn't even checked that before calling. IPR: Are there likely to be many new releases

of men's magazines? Simon Geller: Well, if I win the lottery on Sat-

urday, I will certainly not use the money to launch another magazine, because it's such a high-risk business. Adam Black: There will be loads of new mags

out soon. Now that creative drive has set the agenda, the money men are going to be after more and more launches. The market will keep growing, then flatten out after a couple of years. and then it'll become boring - rather like the success of Woman's Own.

INSIDE

John Walsh has lunch at the River Cafe

page 3

Naomi Wolf: the confused feminist

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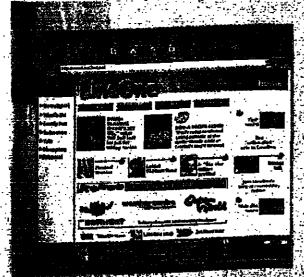
Travel: city of faded grandeur and decay

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Of baked beans and backpacking; the Lakes ... 12 & 13 Hotel for the famous ... 15 Country: the military invade ... 1 6 Gardening ... 1 7 Days out: the Black Country Museum ... 18

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Emergency relief for May Day

William Hartston reviews alternative approaches to the general election

A n overall majority of more than 300 for the Liberal Democrats is hardly in line with opinion poll forecasts, yet the achievements of constituency workers cannot be denied. When Vellow Games and Books produced The Hustings. "The Parliamentary Election Board Game" their main marketing thrust was in two directions: schools, and political party offices. Since the rules of the game include the basics of parliamentary democracy - there is even a black ballot box supplied with the equipment - many schools have been quick to seize on its educational value, but the sales figures among the main political parties have been more surprising. While the Labour and Conservative parties have sold just under 100 sets each, the Liberal Democrats have shifted more than 500. Three theories have been suggested by the makers of the game to explain this Lib-Dem landslide: 1) the Lib Dems have significantly greater need for funds; 2) they have significantly greater need for fun; 3) they realise it's the only way they're going to win anything.

Politics apart, the game is played in four stages. First, the nomination: each player throws the dice and moves a piece round the board hoping to land on "Ward" spaces, where rosettes may be collected. Three rosettes must be taken to a "Returning Officer" square to secure nomination. Stage two is a race round the board to visit all the wards and

collect unallocated votes to deposit in the ballot box. meanwhile, there are the hazards of Media cards (for example: "You are /6. involved in a major press scandal, miss six turns") choices offered by Campaign cards ("Your bandgaining Either is WZĘOD momentum. gain 500 votes or take two extra turns"). Public Meetings and Opinion Polls can also affect the play.

Stage three takes the postal votes into account (the number each player receives is decided solely on the throw of the dice).

and stage four is the final count and declaration of the result. No speeches by

Two games for democrats: campaigning for votes in the Hustingshire constituency – or riding the tide of sleaze in Snap Election!

the winners, though you can calculate figures for turn-out, majority, and swing from the last time you played. There is, it must be

Snap Election!

admitted, very little skill involved, but the game is attractively and amusingly designed, and is a playful way to teach the elements of parliamentary democracy.

The Hustings is available from selected retailers (£19.99) or by mail order direct from Vellow (Games & Books) Limited, Willow House, Dragon Road. Winterbourne, Bristol BS17 1BJ (01454-775050 for details).

and to avoid the risk of a Moral Crusade, want to 'desleaze', you must head in good time to the Media Circus. You are required to stay there for 2 turns in order for your Charm Offensive to be successful. You may then remove one Sleaze Mark from your Ballot Box and resume the game. (You must stay there 2 turns for each Sleaze Mark you wish to

Is that all clear? Good. Then all you have to do is familiarise yourself with the rules about Live TV Debates, Swing Votes (for which Manifesto Cards may not be traded in), Banana Skins, Opinion Poll-Boosts, Electoral Pacts and Political Timebombs and you will be ready to start thinking about your Target Policy and whether your strategy should be to cultivate the votes of the Jobless, OAPs, Haves, Have-nots, or any of the other groups identified in the game as being

And then you'll be ready to take your

place on the extraordinary spagnetti junction of a playing area in which counters may be sent on various roundaboutinfested routes (but with no No U-turns in the side roads and in the Political Minefield), trying to avoid the Political Wilderness

and the Sin Bin. The greatest fun comes from the Banana Skin cards - which may votes for such transgressions as promoting a grey nonentity as your successor, or misspelling "potato" and the Sleaze cards, which offer opportunities of instant gain at the risk of

curring a later Sleaze Offensive. This must be the perfect thing to do as you are sitting in front of your television set late into election night, waiting for the election results to come in and trying not to let Peter Snow's swingometer lull you to sleep. The game's inventor, Martin-Armitage-Smith, warns, however, that "it certainly makes for a better game if somebody has the decency to take the Moral High Ground though sadly this does not always happen".

The bewildering complexity of the rules guarantees an endless supply of good-natured arguments, and the whole experience will, no doubt, enable the participants to emerge with a heightened perspective of the underlying principles behind our electoral process.

Snap Election! is available at selected stores, price £35. Further details from you have led a somewhat sleazy campaign Prowler Productions (0171-402-8083).

Games people play Pandora Melly learns what Scouts do with shrapnel

Bryan Kucale RA, 66, sculptor

I don't play games. I don't have any hobbies whatsoever, but when I was little I had a wonderful book called The Boy's Book of Hobbies. It told you everything from "building a home museum" to "taxidermy", and it was full of misinformation. For example under "How to skin a rabbit" it suggested that if you slit the rabbit's tummy, then slid your hand around the back, the whole animal would slip neatly out of its skin "as smoothly as a finger from a glove" - which is simply not true. Rabbits' tails are stuck on like nobody's business. There was also a section on Scouting, with a picture of a Scout looking tremendous in his hat and woggle, and although I was underage, I managed to join the Isle of Man Scout Troop.

The Scoutmaster was a very weird gentleman called Mr Pritchard, who had been crippled in the First World War. The two interesting things about him were the undersides of his shoes, which had never been in contact with the ground. Also, if you were really lucky and could sing in a high treble voice, which I couldn't, he'd show you the bits of shrapnel moving round in his veins.

Instead of camping in the countryside, he made us collect jam jars, which he wanted to send to England to help the war effort. We collected and washed every jam jar on the island, but of course the Navy were not going to risk a ship to transport jam jars, so we put them into an empty shop and built an incredible glass palace with a tunnel leading through it. At one end, like an old spider, sat the dreadful Mr Pritchard showing people his shrapnel. I've never played any game since, and I blame it all on The Boy's Book of Hobbies.

Jam jars may be found surrounding 340 grams of Fortum & Mason's rose petal jelly (£5.75) – available only at certain times of year, owing to the vast quantity of petals needed.

Don't junk it ... use it

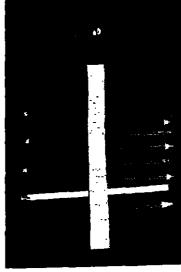
How to sell your house and store your pencils

Children, I have deduced from visits to the homes of some of my more procreative colleagues, are untidy things that tend to leave large numbers of pencils, crayons and felt-tip pens lying around table, floors and anywhere else they are allowed to smear their grubby little hands on. Here is a neat solution to the problem.

All you need is a sharp knife or scissors, and an estate agent's sign. The latter may be procured by the simple expedient of selling your house. (If desperate, you may even forget to pack the crayons when you move, or leave the children behind without a forwarding address.) When the house is sold, you will find yourself in possession of a sturdy For Sale" board thrown away in delight by the estate agent.



You will see that it is made like plastic, with channels running across the board. Cut a strip about 2cm wide, and as long as you like, down the board, with the channels running across the width. Using a thin-bladed pair of scissors or a sharp knife, cut through alternate corrugations. This makes each channel big enough to accommodate a pencil



pens, or your piston-filling Montblane hand-crafted 18-carat gold nib with platinum inlay Solitaire solid gold fountain pen (large), you will need to cut through more corrugations.

Slip a piece of string - from your collection saved from the handles of upmarket shopping bags - through the top channel. and hang the pencil collection above your desk just out of the children's reach.

Note that estate agents' boards are generally supplied and owned by contractors, so you should not nantle any that have not clearly been discarded. When you have acquired and dismantled one, however, do remember also to save the plastic nuts and bolts that held it together. They are very useful in notebooks to hold punched papers, or for fast repairs to bag handles.

Bawn O'Beirne-Ranelagh

William Hartston's chess column will return next week

The effect of sunspot activity on British general election results

In 1979, the Journal of the British Astronomical Association published a iper entitled "Sunspots and general elections", by Prof Kenneth McKinnon and Dr Sven Wincke of the Astropsychic Research Group at the University of the North-East Atlantic (or Rockall Polytechnic, as it then was). We have tracked down the authors, who have been updating their original material.

As Dr Wincke explained, the results had identified a correlation between the Conservative Party's performance in elections, and sunspot activity. The table in the next column compares the results of the Conservatives with the Wolf's sunspot numbers in the election month.

Effects of sunspots on elections:				
Sunspot No				
6.1	1964	-	-13	
17.4	1987		+147	
25.3	1966		-110	
26.0	1974	(Feb)	-4	
28.9	1955		+67	
42.6	1945		-180	
47.1	1974	(Oct)	-42	
51.6	1951		+26	
91.1	1983		+188	
94.8	1950		-17	
99.8	1992		+65	
106.8	1970		+43	

"By arranging the table in increasing order of sunspot activity," Dr Wincke "the threshold effect is clear The third column indicates the Tory majority over Labour (negative numbers for Labour victories). "When the sunspot number is below 50, we have had five Labour victories out of seven post-war elections: but when it exceeds 50, we see

Snap Election! is

designed to appeal to a rather

sample paragraph from the rules:

different constituency. Rather than trying

to teach the fundamentals of electoral

regulations, this game can really only be

played by people who are thoroughly

familiar with all the squalor of our

electoral system at its worst. Here's a

If you occupy the Moral High Ground

(ie you have acquired no Sleaze Marks at

all) you may at any time launch a Moral

Crusade against any opponent who has

accumulated 2 or more Sleaze Marks. In

order to do this you need to land on the

same square as this opponent. S/he must

then roll the Rollercoaster Dice and

follow the instructions detailed below. If

six Conservative wins out of seven." He admitted, however, that he and his colleague did not agree on the causality of the observed effect. While Dr Wincke believes that people's intention to vote Conservative causes a perturbation in the sun's magnetic field, Prof McKinnon believes that sunspots release particles

Expect (5) Bird of prey (7) Fairground (9,4)

Get-together (7)

Madman (6) Footwear item (4)

Diverse (7)

16 Precipitate (6)

Flavouring (7)

17 Charis (4) 19 Poisonous snake (5)

20 Volcanic flow (4)

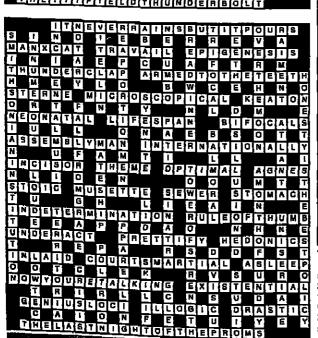
Mark of approval (4)

called "votons" that alter the behaviour of the electorate.

agreed, "We cannot understand," said Dr Wincke, "why you British are bothering with opinion polls, when science offers a precise alternative." Since he does not yet have the April figures for sunspots, he is unable to make a prediction for next week's election, but points out that the March figure of 8.8 looks grim for the Tories, unless there is a sudden outbreak of solar activity. In 1992, however, this method led to a prediction of a Tory majority of 23 - almost exactly right. As Dr Wincke says: "It was the sun wot won

Jumbo crossword answers

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Ch The The III the III

Concise crossword

No.3283 Saturday 26 April DOWN

ACROSS Long and limp (4) Michaelmas daisy (5) Accumulate (5) Lacking refinement (7) 11 Detained person (8) 12 Drink made from grapes (4) 13 Government employees 17 Female horse (4) 18 Banner (8) 21 In the same proportion 22 Live temporarily (5) 23 Loose (5)

ACROSS: 1 Marshal, 5 Harts [Martial arts), 8 Valid, 9 Victory, 10 Erastrs, 11 Aisle, 12 Uneasy, 14 Remiss, 17 Revel, 19 Sponsor, 22 Goulash, 23 Hoped, 34 Tithe, 25 Wheedle, DOWN: 1 Movie, 2 Release, 3 Hedge, 4 Lavish, 5 Hectare, 6 Roits, 7 Symess, 12 Upright, 13 Salvage, 15 Inseptid, 16 Eschew, 18 Vault, 20 Ochre, 21 Ridge.

The Cryptic winner was D. Jayne of Alperton who wins Oxford Companions to the Bible, Classical Literature, English Literature. Music, Philosophy, Theatre and Wine. The Concise winner was; M Thomson, Old Meldrum who wins the Shorter Oxford Dictionary. 12 runners up each receive a Pocket Oxford Dictionary. S. Rust, Ealing, London; B Anderson, London W6; G Chesters, Hull; O Cork, Salisbury; D Jones, Cardiff; R.Gordon Gray, Lenzie; C Whittall, Southampton; D&M Wolmark, Abbots Langley; H Muller, Romford; M Davison, Kingston upon Thames; P Hannan, Bristol.

Bridge Alan Hiron

Game all; dealer South North \$9864 ♥A 852 ◊ попе 107 ♥KJ10 **♥94** ♦Q 10853 **♣Q 1073 ₽**KJ98 **◆**AKQJ53 ♥Q763 OAJ9 **♣**none

Carried away by his distribution and controls, North did too much bidding on this deal. Fortunately his partner was more cautious and they ended in a sensible contract. Less fortunately, South missed a slight extra chance in the play that would have made all the difference.

South opened 1 and North responded 4 ♦ - a splinter purporting to show diamond shortage, spade support, and game-going values. (As the young lady said of her flancé: "He's tall,

Perplexity

Two weeks ago, we asked which April dates could not be turned into valid sums using specified arithmetical signs. The ones that don't work are 1.4.97, 3.4.97, 9.4.97, 10.4.97 and 30.4.97. (Of the rest, the 27th and 19th caused most problems: 2x.7x(-4+9)=7 and $(-1+9) \div 4 = 9-7$. The best set of answers came from Mike Shepherd of London SE21. Now, naturally enough, we

want to know which dates in May

cannot turn into valid sums. Note a slight change in the rules: this time we allow only $+, -, \div, x_1 =$ and as many brackets as you want. (Last time we allowed power-raising exponents too.)

dark and ... oh well, two out of

three can't be too bad.") South

cue bid 5C and North, still not

satisfied, repeated his diamond bid to show a void. South jumped

to 6 and, believe it or not,

North had the nerve to think before passing. West led ♦5 and declarer saw

matters in a simple light. He won, drew trumpis, ruffed a diamond,

then led the ace and another

heart. It was all over, for West

now had two heart tricks to cash.

South missed? Suppose he ruffs

trumps a low club in band. He

♦ A for the extra entry that he

discard from dummy would not

have helped) and finally draws

trumps. Then he crosses to VA

clubs are 4-4, he has two heart

and tries .A. If the adverse

discards from hand and can

claim; and if the clubs do not

behave, there is still the basic

heart position.

chance of finding a favourable

continues cross-ruffing in the minor suits (yes, including ruffing

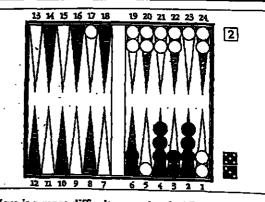
needs – after all, one heart

the opening lead on the table and

What was the extra chance that

A prize of the Chambers 21st Century Dictionary will be awarded to the sender of the best set of answers. Entries by 6 May to: Perplexity, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Backgammon Chris Bray



Here is a more difficult example of a "Pay me now/ Pay me later" problem. In the diagram position Black has a 5-3 to play. He has aiready borne off 3 men. He has two choices: (a) 3/Off or (b) 6/3. In both cases he cannot play the 5. Note that the rules of backgammon state that you must play as much of your roll as possible. If you can play only one of two numbers, you must play the larger if you can. Here you cannot play the 5 whatever you do.

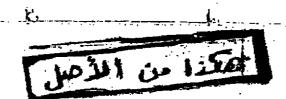
Play (a) leaves 11 immediate shots - all the twos. Play (b) leaves 20 shots – all fours and ones. Normally in such a problem the correct play is the one that leaves the least shots. However, in this case it is worth looking at what happens if White misses the first shot.

With play (a) Black will leave a shot only if he rolls 6-6, 5-5, 4-4, 3-3 on his next turn – a total of four rolls. With play (b) he will leave a single shot with 0-1. 6-2, 6-4, 6-6, 5-2, 5-4, 5-5, 4-2, 4-4, 3-1, 3-3, and 2-2 (19 rolls), and a double shot with 6-5 and 5-1 (four rolls). Even if these shots are missed Black will still have a difficult position in many of the cases, and will often be hit on the third or subsequent roll.

Quite often in backgammon intuition can play a part, and to those experienced in the game the position after play (b) just looks so much better than the position after play (a).

The disjointed nature of the black position after play (a) makes play (b) the right choice in this instance. White will win 50 per cent of the time after play (a) but only 45 per cent of the time after play (b). Note, though, that this type of play, leaving a significant number of extra shots in the original position, is correct only when the alternatives leave a position which will lead to large numbers of additional shots on the very next turn.

For the weather, traffic reports, the sky at night, and Damien Hurts the cartoon sage of artistic angst, TURN TO PAGE





& R × 31 13

has lunch at...

The Rive

Café

AHII Wil

Rogers (left) and Rose Grav: of polenta paradise Рното: NICOLA KURTZ

The Ruth and Rose experience

interview



FULL LONG MEETE

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John Walsh

has lunch at... The River Café

reta Garbo ate there once, apparently. Tina Turner has a tendency to embrace the waiters. Lucien Freud is hardly ever out of the place. Martina Navratilova might as well have had a season ticket, dining there when-ever she won Wimbledon. Will Self goes a lot, without having to worry about anyone examining his pupils after a trip to the gents. John Mortimer and Jeremy Paxman and the rest of the Henley-on-Thames mafia sometimes take over the whole place for fund-raising quiz evenings. Mick Jagger and David Bowie have sat quietly examining the menu, like ordinary human beings, trying to endure the creak of turning heads. And if Tony Blair makes it to Downing Street on Friday, it won't be long before he too makes the journey west, to discuss the politicisation of the Mayorship of London with his friend Richard (Lord) Rogers.

It is, of course, the River Cafe - that ynosure of gastro-erotic Nineties London chic, that glossy, metallic Hammersmith home of cucina nustica, that is, Italian peasant food that no Italian peasant from Turin to Palermo could ever afford. This autumn, it celebrates 10 years of polenta and porcini, 10 years of unfeasibly thick, take-your-stomach-home-in-awheelbarrow bean soups and tidal waves of balsamic vinegar, 10 years of chargrilledthis and drizzled that, of insulate and inzimino, of bruschetta add ribotta, pangrat-

River Café have become as famous as the place - though in a way that's significantly different from the standard-issue restanrateur. Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray do a lot of the cooking themselves, in starchy white uniforms with stray strands of sweaty hair flicked behind their ears; but they're known less as celebrity chefs hungry for Michelin rosettes than as joint hostesses of a busily arty salon. The opening of our restaurant coincided with the decline of the pompous male chef who made you feel his restaurant was a tem-

ple of food, and everything had to be hushed and quiet," says Ruth Rogers, "That's so oldboth from large fashioned. Rose and I are both from large families, families – we with lots of people sitting round the table and talkwanted the place ing all the time. We wanted the place to be an to be an extension of the way we ate with our families and extension of the friends. None of that 'You're lucky to be here' way we ate 7 attitude." "And from the start," said Rose, "we

American style of service - that smartness, those good looks, the combination of imelligence and love of the job..."

I went to have a look. The place was filling up fast by 12.45pm. Arriving lunchers had that look on their faces that says, "It's taken months to get a table, but I'm going to walk in as if I own the place." A famously ebullient Welsh writer was being lunched by her agent. Jonathan New-house, nephew of the God-like media mogul Si Newhouse (who owns the New er) was meeting the proprietor of Viz the co-owners. I marvelled at the names of the staff. The maître d' is a dramatic Morticia Addams figure in all-over black, who answers to the name of "Limpet", a humorous contraction of Elizabeth. The No.



unind?" You suspect that if somebody And the women who own and run the called Jane ever got a job here, she would be magically renamed Fuschia or Nefertiti by nightfall.

Rose Gray appears. The older of the partners, she is lean-faced and headmistressy, but her conversation is warm and her eyes sparkle. She orders the staff around with cod-bossiness ("Out of the way, you lot. I saw you trying to sneak into the photograph..."). When the wine is poured for her inspection, she inserts her nose into the glass like a crane with a water-jug. Her expression changes. Her brows knit. Something is

not right. You can almost hear the wine quaking Rose and lare with apprehension, nervy ripples on its oxidised surface. She packs the offending vintage off to Bottle Detention with nuer confidence.

We are joined by Ruth Rogers Looks-wise, she is frankly Gaby Roslin's elder sister, with straw-blonde hair and milkyblue eyes. A former Sixties radical and the wife of Richard Rogers, she is socially admit and ocean-

ically well-connected, from the Oval Office to the Foreign Office. They're an intriguing pair, Ruth a flatterer, Rose a straight-talker, both cautiously protective of the Cafe's reputation, both clearly delighted to have been so comprehensively "taken up" by the media establishment and the chef community alike.

"When we started," said Rose, "everyone said, 'Oh, the restaurant business, it's so competitive.' But we grew into the generation of Kensington Place and Bibendum and the boys at Le Caprice and Bizarre magazines. While waiting for and the Ivy, and they've all been very generous and supportive. If we have a problem, they'll help us out. All the great chefs of the world come through the River Café now - people like Michael Chow and Alice Waters [of Chez

hunk by the door is called Dante. He Panisse, the north Californian home of a month's time and something else will Capri and finding a salad of boiled secretive mother, I've always been very checks a booking in the ledger and sum- organic cooking and the River Cafe's be here. Right now the asparagus is at its lemons and artichoke. Even things that enquiring about my origins, about food mons a waitness of hearthreaking beauty biggest influence]. And even though best, and we'll cook it like mad for a seem taboo to their cooking - like corian and gardening." She studied fine art at with the words "Vashti - would you we're not going in the same direction as while, they we'll stop and you won't get der, which you'd think would be strictly Guildford, taught art at Shoreditch Com-Marco [Pierre White] and Nico [Ladenis] and creating food in complex ways, they recognise what we're trying to do." Which is? "Trying to cook Italian food to a sublime degree. Trying to do it to perfection."

"Perfectionism" is an odd word. It

takes the concept of utter rightness and holds it at arm's length, as though there were something neurotic and pernickety about wanting such a thing. Ruth and Rose are perfectionists in ways that can seem both good and slightly absurd. About vegetables, for example, they are as doctrinaire as any tabloid-conceived EU commissar laying down the law about straight bananas. In the pages of their new book, River Café Cook Book Two, you learn, for instance, that beetroots must be "the size of golfballs", fig salad should comprise either "purple basil and ripe black figs or green basil and ripe green figs" but never a combination of the two. They even specify the kind of salt you should use (Maldon)... Did they believe in some Platonic theory of ideal food?

"Of course, there's such a thing as a perfect zucchini," said Rose Gray. "It has to be organically grown and picked when it tastes best, which is [she extended a bony forefinger] when it's slightly longer than your first finger, and before the seeds have developed inside. Because after they've developed, the flesh gets softer and watery and you won't get the intense flavour." "Our cooking is all about flavour," interjected Ruth. "If you have an anchovy that's salted or a zucchini that's marinaded, you're going to get the best out of it." I'd have thought it was a matter of taste, but only a madman would dream of contradicting Lady Rogers in full, idealistic flow. "What Rose and I want is for things to be in season, to cook them as close as possible to their best. We don't want raspberries in January, don't want microwaves, don't want anything frozen. And there's a certain excitement about saying to people, it's nearly May / June and the melons are coming soon. And then they'll be gone in

it for another year."

And in case you're wondering how the River Café ladies can sit in Hammersmith, London W6 and talk about their "zucchini" rather than their "courgettes", it's because of their scrupulousness about everything being genuinely Italian. Their vegetables may be grown by English suppliers, but they're grown from seeds acquired in Italy. "We look around," said Rose, "and go to the shops that sell the seeds that produced the vegetables that appear in the market. We're terribly selective: this particular pumpkin, these par-

ticular cabbages. There's man in Southampton who grows herbs for us wonderful oregano, marjoram, basil, fantastic varieties of thyme and sage. and Italian flat-leaf parslev. And there's a Sicilian farmer called Mario just off the M25 who grows piles of rocket and tremicrowaves, don't visano, winter leaves, broad beans..."

But did it have to be Italian? Would anyone be terribly distressed if you included Thai lemon-grass or Mexican

Didn't they get tired of Italian ingredients? "That's like saying, 'Do you get tired of speaking English all day and would you like to speak a bit of French,' said Ruth severely. Surely, I said, it's more like dropping the odd italicised French word into an English sentence in the interests of a lively style. She set her jaw. "We are committed totally to this Italian food experience, which is changing all the time and we will change with it. But I don't think we'll ever plant our own concept on it." "And anyway," put in Rose, diplomatically, "Italian cuisine has so many surprises. It's an inspiration, to go to a part of Italy and find that they use cinnamon in tomato paste. Or going to

a dish if it made it taste more interesting.

Oriental. It turns up in Italian food

because it came up the African coast..." How they love talking about food, even just naming the names - and with what rapt and greedy relish they taste everything on everybody's plate. My lunch with Ruth and Rose was punctuated by a kind of crockery square dance, in which I swapped plates with Ruth halfway through, so she could try my mozzarella di bufela with chargrilled aubergines and I could feast on Ruth's wood-roasted asparagus with gull's eggs, olives and salted anchovies; and just as I was resolving that no-one was gonna

take this away from me, I swapped plates with Rose to try her tagliatelli with **∠**We don't want breadcrumbs and marcarpone and was glad I did. raspbemies in It's an odd trajectory that has brought these very different women to this

perfectionist haven. Ruth is from upstate New York "Way upstate," she says, "You know Kingston? Poughkeepsie? Woodstock?") where her father was a radically-minded doctor and her mother a teacher. After school in Vermont, she discovered beans or, I dunno, English rose petals in London in 1968, got involved in helping

draft-resisting young Americans and went out with an Oxford Rhodes scholar (tantalisingly, a year after Bill Clinton was there). Like Rose, she worked as a graphic designer, at Penguin Books, and discovered the world of European cuisme by dining out every night in Paris when her architect husband was designing the Beaubourg Centre.

Rose is from Surrey. Her father was a balloon engineer who died before she was born, in a ghastly accident in the house beside the balloon shed. "I have literally only just discovered this story," said Rose. "I saw his grave for the first time three weeks ago. Nobody spoke about it. and my mother used to pretend he died in the war. Perhaps because of having a prehensive, then raised four children and learned her cooking skills at the family hob. For a time, she made crepes in the intervals of rock concerts at the Rainbow and other venues, then left for America where a friend invited her to be head chef in a new restaurant.

The girls met in the mid-Seventies -Rose was an old friend of the first Mrs Rogers and shared a passion for Italian food, largely through the influence of Richard's Trieste-born mother, Dada. 'She was the first Italian cook I met in London," says Rose, "I was 18 and we were all students, and she used to cook food one had never eaten in one's life." It all came together in 1986 when Rogers bought the Hammersmith warehouses to convert into his architecture practice and designated the site of the present restaurant as an eaterie. "I looked through application from caterers, and they were just dreadful," remembers Ruth. "I thought the only thing worse than not having an eating place was having a bad one. So I called up Rose and we sat down over coffee in Drummond's in the King's Road one morning in 1986 and said 'Shall we do it?' and that was that."

Ten years later, they've done OK. Apart from the drift of international chefdom across their deep blue carpets, they were described by no less than the New Yorker as serving "the best Italian food in Europe" - that's including Italy - and their cook book has sat like a prize marrow in the bestseller lists since it was published. Their refusal to cook beef or veal (because they can't get convincing guarantees out of meat suppliers) has more influence on London eaters than any amount of ministerial reassurance. And to be given lunch there, between the metal counter housing their chefs and the huge window with the view of their herb garden, is at least one guarantee of true love or serious intent in these uncertain times. Where food, power, charm and fastidiousness are the ingredients, the River Café is a dish that's perilously close to perfection itself.

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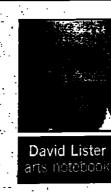
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to be a fly-on-the-wall at specialist Rosalind King, is on the next faculty meeting of the board of the English Shakethe English department at London University's Queen Mary and Westfield College. Lisa Jardine, the college's Professor of English, argued in the Indepennext meeting between Ms Jardine dent's education pages this week and Ms King should, I am that "our great theatre companies have lost their nerve with Shakespeare". In contrast to the new film of Romeo and Juliet, our national theatre companies, she claims, offer "inert, élitist, studiedly authentic pieces of literary and Capulets in their souped-up history based on some kind of uption that andiences 'ought' to enjoy them."

Lisa Jardine's colleague, senior English lecturer and Shakespeare tions have to ape the "fresh, fast

speare Company, whose produc-tion of A Midsummer Night's Dream is currently touring with marked success and lack of inertia. The informed, resemble the meeting between Helena and Hermia in The Dream, the one where the two have to be forcibly restrained.

All praise to the new Romeo and fulies film with the Montagues cars and beach fights. It has brought a new audience to Shakespeare, and that is marvellous. But it doesn't mean all future produc-



and funky" style, as it is billed. Adrian Noble head of the Royal Shakespeare Company saw and loved the movie, but I felt he was right when he told me afterwards

would be a great night out, but you wouldn't necessarily want or expect all future recitals to be in the same mode.

Perhaps there is a lack on stage today of the past boldness of Trevor Nunn's musical Comedy of Errors from the Seventies and Bill Alexander's 1950s nostalgia Merry Wives from the Eighties. But these, like the "Verona Beach" Romeo and Juliet will always be glorions alternatives. Anthenticity in staging a great classical text can demand some preparation from the audience; it certainly repays study. But that does not make it elitist, any more than a classical future. It will revolutionise art that if you went to see Blur per- music concert or a TV adaptation publishing in this country." Why

form St Matthew's Passion, it of Pride and Prejudice is elitist. To 21? "It's art publishing in the 21st the south coast that the worryingly patronising to the bulk of schoolchildren and students, especially worrying when the assertion comes from a professor of English.

January,

don't want

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frozen 7

To prove that nothing is élitist in this postmodern age, rock star David Bowie is to move into publishing art books. Bowie, along with gallery owner Bernard Jacobson and Modern Painters editor Karen Wright, will launch 21, their new art-book publishing venture with a state of the art party in May. David Bowie enthuses "21 is the

because all three of us are well over 21," adds one of his two colleagues equally accurately.

In Tom Stoppard's play Night and Day, a journalist from the Grimsby Evening Telegraph being patronised by one from The Sunday Globe retorts that the Grimsby Evening Telegraph is more important in The Sunday Globe is around the and if Moore makes 'em laugh in the general laughter this week stop Broadway with a panto star over Dudley Moore forsaking Hol- the Americans have actually heard

call Shakespeare on stage élitist is century." Bowie explains. "It's Southampton Mayflower is more important in Southampton any day of the week than the West End is in the west.

Actually, the plot is rather more complex. Paul Elliott, head of ENB productions, which is staging the panto, tells me he has been after Dudley Moore for five years, believing him a Buttons sent from heaven. Elliott has long wanted to Grimsby any day of the week than convert the Americans to panto, globe. I was reminded of this by Southampton, it could be next lywood to appear in panto at the of. So Southampton could yet have Southampton Mayflower Theatre. a historic part to play in

Serena Mackesy: on horses, mares and stupid cows; Jasper Rees on TV; Robert Hanks on Radio TURN TO PAGE

Best of spring fiction: from Self to techno 6 & 7 The fall and rise of the stately home Naomi Wolf: sex and the married feminist

Lord of the trance

Steven Berkoff, mad dog of stage and screen, is about to be unleashed on vinyl. John O' Reilly meets pop's new pin-up

Decadence, hanging out with a dance band called N-Trance, a band known mainly for "When we first got in contact with his shifting ludicrous quantities of singles -"Set You Free" (3-4 million), the remixed "Stayin" Alive" (1.5 million) and "D.I.S.C.O" (still counting). And what, more to the point, is a dance outfit hankering after youth appeal doing putting the voice of a 60-year-old on its new album and single?

According to N-Trance's mixmasters Dale Longworth and Kevin O Toole, the hugely powerful IBM computer Deep Blue. The piece summoned up a familiar futuristic nightmare of computers generating other computers and bypassing their human creators. The band Los Angeles where he is putting on his latwanted an actor who could imitate the voice of a machine. Berkoff's delivery and face seem to guarantee maliciously

hat is Steven Berkoff playing at? Why is one of our greatest contemporary dramatists, the author of *Greek* and author of *Greek* and the steven's back-catalogue and he's got the right kind of image for it. Pure evil." So agent, he rang our record company back and said he thought we were taking the piss. We didn't believe it either, though,

when he said yes."

When I arrived at the studio, the band were listening to Berkoff doing a convincing imitation of an automaton, intoning with a rich apocalyptic weariness: "We can only hope there is compassion, understanding, even pity, inside the mind of the story goes like this: they were about to machine." The band were directing go into production for their new album,
The Mind of the Machine, when they saw
Beverly Hills Cop. in which Berkoff for the performance, seemingly appears as an art dealing villain, a vari- unaware of the function his speech would appears as an art dealing vinain, a variation on a role that has become his screen trademark, from the sci-fi corporate nasty in Outland to the Eastern Bloc rogue in Octopussy. The inspiration for the album was an article about the hugely powerful IBM computer Deep hugely powerful IBM computer Deep like. The size a suppressed was a family and the mind screaming "Shut Up!", which, they explained, came from Beverly Hills Cop? Berkoff became strangely self-conscious for someone who can ham with the best. He refused, saying he didn't want to cannibalise old stuff.

The actor-author had just flown in from est play, Massage. Its story concerns a woman, who, while working at a massage parlour, is introduced to a client who hapdetached violence.

Longworth says: "We wanted a Richard Burton-type tone and thought of Anthony pens to be her husband. He is also bringing Coriolanus to Israel and Japan.

Tanned, attired in leather jacket, baseball

cap and cowboy boots, he looked every inch a West Coast rocker.

Interviewing Berkoff is a bit like being attendance at one of his one-man shows. It is, in effect, a free-wheeling monologue. Occasionally you can grab the wheels and steer. His easy conversation was variously genial, jet-lagged, vain, articulate and, above all else, communicated an endear-ing insecurity, masked as narcissism. Such as his claim, for example, that he has replaced William Burroughs as an icon for certain rock groups.

What attracted him to the prospect of working with N-Trance? What kind of similarities are there between dance music and the sometimes brutal theatre of Steven Berkoff? Well, for a start, his productions are often purely physical theatre without props. Empty spaces where bodies clamber over each other, which, when you think about it, is a little like clubbing. But his opening gambit was simply that he is following the money: "You have to go

wherever you can to pay the mortgage."

But he was also keen to stress a history of connections with musicians, from working with Roger Daltrey in McVicar. to meeting Bono in Dublin at one of his plays, to the possibility of working with Sting in the future. He is flattered by the interest that musicians have shown.

And he is clear about the relationship of rock and the kind of theatre he is interested in. "It's about an emotional, physical, psychological release and abandonment, which I think is the nature of drama. But most theatre doesn't really



Steven Berkoff, the thinking man's John Lydon: "I'd like to tour a bit, become Number One"

explore that any more. Drama is about the course, would turn it around and brag relationship with their bank manager. releasing of demons and devils out of the public psyche. The original Greek theatre was a bloody business. It was meant to be bers of the rock world. "The candidness a sop, an amelioration to contend against death, violence, plague, wars. It harnesses our energies. To some extent, the only people who have replaced that primitive, vital, throbbing, dangerous theatre in the 20th century have been rock stars."

In this way, Berkoff is an enigma. He is a man who knows exactly what rock music should be about—so why is he considering working with Sting? His early theatre was punk in spirit and it comes as no surprise to hear him suggest that the speering, Brechtian John Lydon was an early imitator. "He came to look at my style. I think he impersonated me a bit.

He came to see East and the one-man got the imprimatur of Pete Tong's "Record show where I did Dog." (Lydon, of of the Week" long before it reversed the

that Berkoff copied him.) I asked him to define this style that so fascinates memand the very frankness of the language I use, and its physical expression on stage. I sometimes have a little bit of disdain for what I regard as the sour arse of the establishment and rock 'n' roll has some kind of finger on the pulse of what energises people." His taste for it is selective, however: while he sees this project as a natural extension of what he does, unlike Irvine Welsh, you don't see him putting

his face about in clubs. N-Trance themselves are a deeply schizophrenic band. Aside from what they see as the promo music of "D.I.S.C.O.",

I asked Berkoff whether he thought he might be a new pop sensation and whether he had considered touring. He turned the thought over, partly to see how it might sound and partly as a genuine fancy, of how the idea might play out. "I think I'm going to go out with my own rock 'n' roll group. Have a new eareer, write my own songs, have my own backing group. 'I d like to tour a bit, become Number One, Using my language, putting it to music so it becomes more cuberent. it to music, so it becomes more coherent. more political, more emotive, creating a more powerful, more dissentious kind of language." When it comes to pop, Berkoff is a chancer. If he learns to swear a bit more in interviews, and be a bit more

surly, he might even have a career.

'The Mind of The Machine' is released on All Around the World next month

Maternal tyranny

THEATRE Bailegangaire Royal Court, London

last seen on the London that in Martin McDonagh's stage, she was up to her waist later Beauty Queen of and then her neck in a Leenane, is the lonely spinster mound of earth, jabbering away as Beckett's Winnie in Happy Days. In Bailegangaire. the first revival in a Tom Murphy season at the Royal Court, she's only marginally more mobile and every bit as redoubtable in the loquacity department. Propped up against the pillows, she plays Mommo, a bed-ridden. senile crone who spends her waking hours obsessively repeating a long involved story from her past about the day her husband challenged a hefty Bochtan man to a laughing contest and how, as the eventual result of this, the name of that town was changed to Bailegangaire, which means "the place without laughter".

Where Beckett's Winnie clings to speech as a way of staving off boredom and terror. Mommo's elaborate outpourings are a strategy of postponement and evasion. She never reaches the tragic end of the saga because she can't face it. Her long-winded tale and its inconclusiveness would drive a saint to distraction and, even at first hearing. run the risk of having much the same effect on the audience. Imagine, then, the fraved nerves of Mommo's past holds the clue to the

carer of a tyrannically demanding hag. With the added insult, here, that she takes Mary for an interfering servant whose puzzling presence she resents and only deigns to recognise her less dutiful, sexually more adventer, Dolly (Ruth McCabe).

While the old lady rabbits

on, wrapped up in the past,

the two younger women try to come to terms with their lives in the present. Mommo's story seems to take you back to a medieval pagan world (the contest turns into a kind gods as the peasant people shout out all the worst misfortunes they have endured and laugh uproariously: "Nothin" was sacred and nothing a secret. [Including] the unbaptised an' stillborn in shoe-boxes planted." Her granddaughters' experience puts us in touch with a mid-Eighties Ireland where, down the road from Mommo's traditional thatch cottage, there is a Japanese electronics plant which is none the less due to close, doubly symbolising the locals lack of con-

trol over their destiny.

hen the excellent middle-aged granddaughter, healing of the present and if Irish actress Ros- Mary (Brid Brennan) who, in Mommo can be steered into Linehan was a situation remarkably like carrying her story through to the end, then a fresh start will be possible. But the catharsis of the close struck me as unearned and unconvincing and the intimations of renewal and rebirth out of all proportion to what had been finally exorcised. Before this dramatically under-justified moment, the control of mood and the acting in James Macdonald's production are superb. Brid Brennan's grave, sensitive, Mary shows you an intelligent woman near to the end of her tether and she

and Ruth McCabe's blowsy,

humorous, elicitly pregnant

Dolly skilfully signal the edgy

intimacy of these sisters as they get at each other by individually prompting their grandmother in to fresh cascades of narration. Ms Linehan's performance is a tour de force. though not one that will be necessarily all that intelligible at first to English ears. Luxuriating in the preposter-ously literary diction of the tale and hawking up the var-ious types of laugh from her prodigious vocal plumbing. she lets you hear a woman

whose rapt, ravingly grandil-

oquent manner is a shelter

from the meaning.
To 17 May. Booking: 0171-565

When I was at school, anyone involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme burgh's Award scheme burgh was at school, anyone involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme burgh was a kin of a read but

thought a bit of a nerd, but things change, it seems. On Thursday the Royal Albert the unveiling of the results. MUSIC Miracles Thursday the Royal Albert
Hall was packed for Miracles:
The Concert, presented in association with the Award and, though there was smart and there was grungy, nerdy

The opening section of the concert allowed groups from the boroughs involved to show off the work they'd produced.

We had militaristic calisthenics and formation dancing, we had

The opening section of the Royal Albert Hall, London songs linked in a rather shaky structure outlined by a narrator:

"four symbolic figures from the subconscious and spiritual been supplanted by soul music and formation dancing, we had

The opening section of the results.

Royal Albert Hall, London songs linked in a rather shaky structure outlined by a narrator:

"four symbolic figures from the subconscious and spiritual been supplanted by soul music and formation dancing, we had The Miracles Project is a west rappers and a little white rock, London community prowe even had highlights from Bugsy Malone, in costume. And gramme devised by the chamber orchestra London Musici everyone performed as if this and its conductor Mark were their only stab at Fame. If it was more end-of-term talent Stephenson, who is joint artistic director with Paul Glad-stone Reid. Using funds contest than anything, what was surprising was that, despite claims of diversity, the results supplied by the Duke's scheme, were so homogenised. I don't and local councils, the orchestra unites would-be musicians know the demographics of the

the slightest trace of classical music (nor country music, come to that). What happened to pluralism and multi-culturalism?

The climax of the concert was Miracles, a new work by Paul Gladstone Reid, which he describes as "a contemporary mystery opera". The principle here was the same, that professionals perform alongside raw

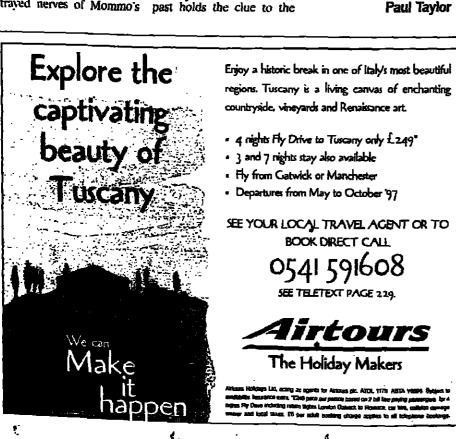
The Optimist. The Cynic and so on) to find themselves and build a better world.

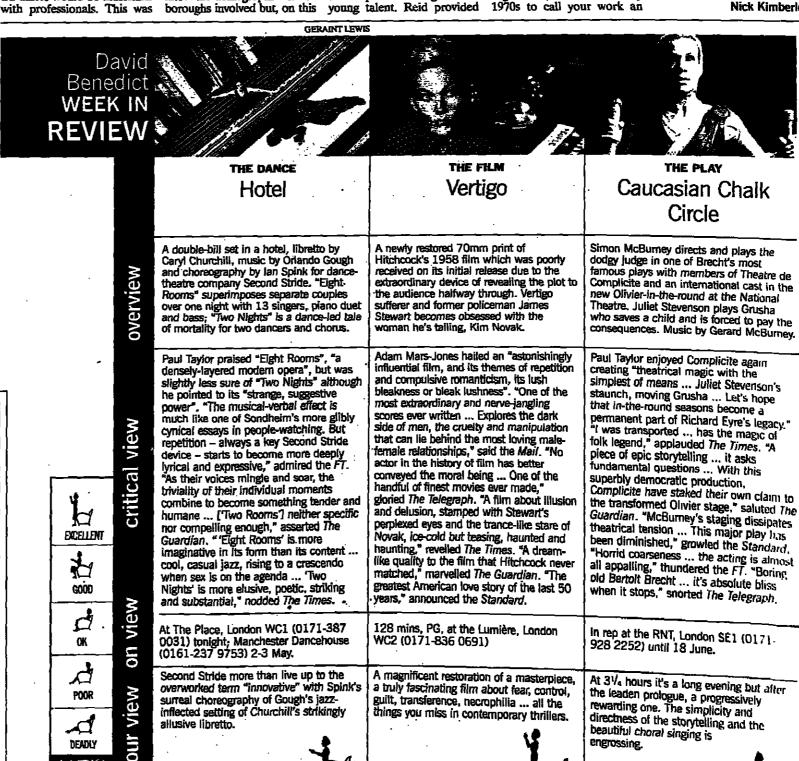
Well, nobody said opera had to make sense. Ask Wagner. On second thoughts, don't mention Wagner. The problem starts there, with ideas that "opera" is a superior form. That's why musicians in other genres are so eager to use the term. It's very 1970s to call your work an

"opera" when what you really mean is "concept album", and there was something rather 1970s about Miracles: glitter and sparkle, choreography out of Pan's People, pseudo-soul uplift. In some ways such projects

nullify criticism. Think positive, and you're a wishy-washy liberal; be negative, and you're propagating rigid hierarchies. Perhaps all that's worth saying is that I hope everyone involved in Miracles goes on to enjoy the richness of contemporary musical life, if they don't already. What I fear is that, under the guise of self-expression, musical forms already bolstered by 1 the muscle of multi-national dollars continue to lord it over the marginal, the dispossessed and the experimental,

Nick Kimberley





On the 60th anniversary of the Nazi bombing of the Basque city of Guernica, Elizabeth Nash visits the new Guggenheim museum in nearby Bilbao, while, below, Kathleen Brunner unlocks the meaning of the painting that is Picasso's allegory of the horror of war



Art is the politics of the possible

rom the length of one of Bilbao's sober rectilinear boulevards you can glimpse the Guggenheim modern art museum, its vigorous metallic swoops and twists glinting and shuddering skywards in the pale northern light. The contrast, at first sight incongruous, could not be more fitting.

Estat of spring fictions "on to techno"

the fall and use of the dately herne

Full From Wolf. Sex and

The American architect Frank Gehry's futuristic fantasy, plonked in the old warehouse area of Spain's principal industrial port, has already, even before its inauguration on 3 October, won the city's heart. Dour Basque citizens, who have little of the breezy gaiety of their southern compatriots, nod and smile approvingly as this fabulous building rampages over a vast stretch of riverside that they have spurned for decades.

Bilbao was a roaring city whose manufacturing heart - ironworks, refining, shipbuilding - was laid waste by recession and changing times. Even today, the spring air is spiked with a salty, sulphuruous tang of old chemistry lab. Gehry wanted his building to honour the city's tough industrial past with shapes of chimneys and ships, of curved gleaming hulls reflected in the steely estuary waters.

The 14bn peseta (£70m) venture is the fruit of a deal between New York's Solomon Guggenheim Foundation and the Basque regional government, together with the provincial government of Viscaya. The Basque taxpayer financed the build-ing and Guggenheim will supply the lion's share -80 per cent - of the exhibits. They will be drawn, in rotating selection, from its museums in New York and Venice, home to the finest private collection of 20th-century art.

The Basque government adopted the project to help shake the city out of its doldrums and push it towards the next century. The same impulse produced Bilbao's stylish new metro system, Sir Norman Foster's cheerful and user-friendly

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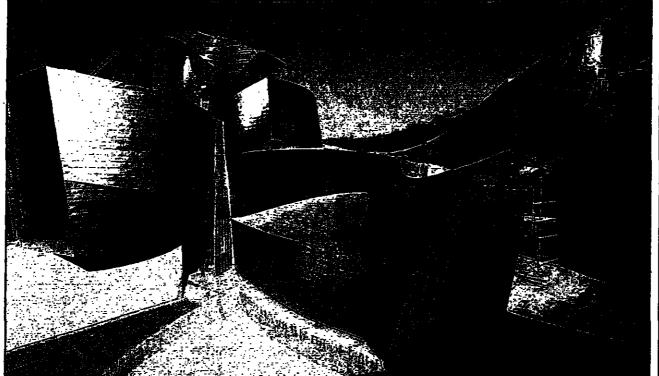
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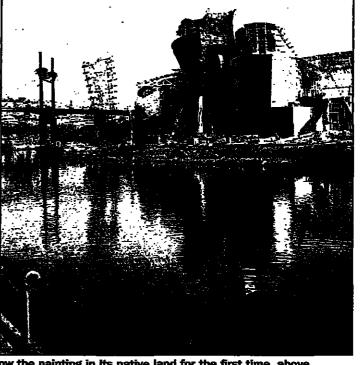
Contract to 1888

homage to the beauty of concrete and steel. The Guggenheim's director, Thomas Krens, promises Bilbao will be his foundation's flagship in Europe, a glittering star in a "constellation" of establishments from New York to Seoul. It has been controversial from the start, not just for the potentially tempestuous partnership of private American and public Basque funds.

But the building is an undisputed triumph despite a worrying moment when the titanium plates that clothe the undulating walls started to discolour. Now it is the eventual content that causes rumbles of disquiet within Spain's picky art

The hottest dispute is whether the museum can borrow Guernica, Picasso's masterpiece on the horrors of war, from Madrid's Reina Sofia





Museum, for its inaugural exhibition. The painting was inspired by the Nazis' aerial bombardment 60 years ago today of the Basques' spiritual capital just down the road. It has never been exhib-

ited in the Basque country. The Reina Sofia thinks Guernica, battered by decades of toing and froing before it came to Spain in 1981, is now too fragile to move. The museum recently denied a request from Japan to borrow the painting for a commemoration of the bomb-ing of Hiroshima, and refused an application from France to include it in a Picasso retrospective despite a personal petition from President Mitterrand to King Juan Carlos. Given the sensitivity of Bilbao's request, the Reina Sofia has now commissioned a report on the state of the canvas, and

will announce its final decision next month. "The 60th anniversary of the destruction of Guernica offers an unrepeatable historic opportunity for Basque people to see this work, the most important painting in 20th-century art, in their own homeland for the first time," Juan Ignacio Vidarte,

managing director of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, said this week. "This transcends technical considerations. To say it is too fragile is to insult our intelligence. We've made plans to transport it in its frame in a special protective vehicle. It's not

problem of cost. We've said we'll pay." The tug-of-war has become a battle of political will, probably to be resolved by a quiet word in the ear of the Prime Minister. Jose Maria Aznar, should he judge it prudent to bow to pressures from the region's ruling Basque Nationalist Party, who are also partners in his government

The importance of the painting goes beyond the artistic. Locals tell you that hanging a copy of Guernica on their sitting room wall during 40 years of Franco's rule amounted to an act of

Some whisper that sending Guernica away for up to two years would strip the Reina Sofia of the jewel in its otherwise undistinguished crown: hence its foot-dragging. Braced for possible dis-

appointment, Vidarte argues that the painting this week in Bilbao. "But I'm more interested in would be welcome any time, not just this year.

dano, a university professor of 20th-century art who is close to both the Guggenheim and the Reina Sofia, is that the political appeal for the work from the Basque government and the artistic request from the museum have become intertwined, and the Reina Sofia now has to decide on criteria far beyond its usual museological considerations.

Barandano is more worried about new acquisitions, for which the Basques are contributing £30m over four years, set to form 20 per cent of the museum's collection. The first 23, bought in February, include works by De Kooning, Anselm Kiefer, Rothko and a number of young Basques. Vidarte says these works complement existing Guggenheim holdings.

Barandano regrets that the museum announced the purchases without showing them. "Rothko is one of the great painters of this century," he said

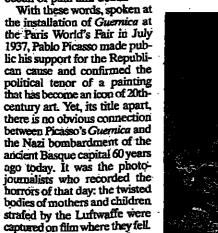
the quality of the work than the resonance of the The problem, says Kosme Maria de Baran- name. Rothkos vary greatly in price and quality: some are very damaged and discoloured. We don't want to end up with his duds."

He also questions the wisdom of acquiring works by Basque artists whose paintings are widely exhibited throughout the region, "They could have bought works of less well-known people. Especially as the Guggenheim has made no commitment to exhibit these works in New York. which would have been a generous gesture of international cultural exchange."

If Bilbao's museum is splendid from the outside, it is even more spectacular inside, prompting the thought that the vast curving galleries could outdazzle the works exhibited within them. Barandano says not: "A big work by Mondrian is not going to be frightened by grand surroundings."

The only doubt is whether the world's artlovers will make the detour to Bilbao to see this

[] i Guernica, and in all my Victory in defeat recent works of art, I clearly express my abhorrence of the military caste that has sunk Spain in an ocean of pain and death."



So what precisely does Guernica portray? The clues to its meaning are at best enigmatic: there is a speared horse in its death throes, an impassive bull, a howing woman cradling her dead child. A fallen soldier, sword in hand, lies, mouth agape, beneath the horse. Another anguished woman holds out a lamp, while an astonished female witness gazes on the mayhem. Behind these women, and unseen by them, a plum-

meting figure bursts into flames. The meaning of Guernica has intrigued art historians for decades, all the more so given Picasso's notorious reticence about his work. Most interpreters regard Guernica as an anti-war protest expressed in open, universal terms. Spanish Morians, for their part, maintain that Guernica has a concrete, if elusive, symbolism related to the Civil War, a view lent credence by Picasso's comments on joining the French Communist Party in October 1944, when he referred to Guernica's "deliberate sense of







incendiaires

From myth to mural: the Romans break down the walls of Numancia, only to find all its inhabitants already dead or dying (MARY EVANS); one of Picasso's earliest composition studies for 'Guernica', No 6 (1 May 1937), showing a helimeted warrior (esuccession Picasso / DACS 1997); and the front page of L'Humanité that broke the story of the bombing on 28 April 1937

I would like to propose a new reading of Guerrica that brings to light the lost allegory behind the painting: the Siege of Numancia. This famous Spanish legend recounts how the people of Numancia, the sacred town of the Iberian Celts, committed mass suicide rather than surrender to the Roman general

Scipio Aemilianus in 133 BC. The example of Numancia stirred Spanish pride during the reign of Philip II and again during the Napoleonic invasion in 1809. The Republicans appropriated the legend as their own during the Civil War and, with Franco's Nationalist forces inexorably gaining ground, eventually saw the fate of Numancia as an analogy to their own hopeless situation. Republicans even began calling themselves "Numantinos".

In Guernica - created for dispropaganda" and remarked play at the 1937 Paris World's that, "the buil represents Fair, in a pavilion funded by the

Republican government as part of a desperate propaganda effort - Picasso enlarges on the legend, weaving into the story his own esoteric symbolism.

Picasso first accepted the commission in January 1937, six months into the war. The weeks that followed were a grim, uncertain time for him, and inspiration was slow in coming. In a poetic journal, he recorded the anguish he experienced as he searched in vain for a suitable subject for the mural, while the anxious organisers met him every night at the Café de Flore in the hope of some progress.

What finally galvanised Pi-

casso into action was news of the bombing of Guernica on 26 April. True to himself and to the ideologically riven mood of the government leaders. 1930s, he painted a work that reflected the moral ambiguity of the time, as well as contemporary political and philosophical

chose to work by way of allusion because the truths he wanted to convey would have been unpalatable to many hard-line Republicans. What he alluded to, but dared not overtly express, was the inevitable victory of fascism and the overthrow of humanist values, not only in Spain,

but across all of Europe. By the spring of 1937, democracy was widely believed to have failed, the French Popular Front had fallen apart, and there seemed to be no way forward for society. The boinbing of Guernica on 26 April finally extinguished all hope of a positive outcome for the Republican movement and exile to Mexico or the Soviet Union was anxiously negotiated by

Four days before the bombing, there had opened in Paris a French version of Cervantes' 1580 play, The Siege of Nuissues and their bearing on representation and the artist. He wolved with the production -

including the director Jean-Louis Barrault, future star of Les Enfants du Paradis - and, whether or not he attended a performance, it seems more than coincidental that the programme for the play contained a reference to the Iberian town as a symbol of "the persistence of the spirit of freedom in a given place". If, when La Numance opened on 22 April, Numancia could be seen as a beacon of hope for the Republican struggle, by 28 April. when the news of the destruction of Guernica broke on the front page of L'Humanité, it had turned into a symbol of the Republicans' heroic defeat.

In Guernica, on a canvas resembling a theatrical backdrop. Picasso alludes to the most dramatic moments in Cervantes' play, the scenes depicting the mass suicide of the Numantinos. As they prepare to die, the defiant townspeople set their town alight, determined to deprive portrays this figure as female).

General Scipio of trophies to parade at his triumph in Rome. Meanwhile, despite their initial resolve, the women and children who are to die first at the hands of their own soldiers, become hysterical when the fateful moment arrives, and some of the mothers try to escape with their children in their arms.

In Picasso's mural, a wailed town goes up in flames, as fire leaps from a tower on the right-hand side; on the extreme left of the picture, we see a mother and child as innocent victims, killed, not by bombs, but by swords (an early sketch emphasises a sword protruding from the child's gaping wound); while, to the extreme right, Picasso makes reference to the final scene of Cervantes' play, in which a boy named Bariato, the keeper of the keys to the city and the last of its citizens to die, plunges to his death from a flaming rooftop (only Picasso

Note, too, that in one of the earliest sketches, dated 1 May 1937, the trampled swordsman of the finished picture wears an raised fist clutching a sheaf of ancient, Roman-style helmet.

sacrifice through the centrality of the speared horse, part of a related allegory often referred to in his writings and etchings of the mid-1930s. In these works, a bull and a disembowelled horse signal the end both of classical representation and of humanism. The young female lamp-bearer, who resembles Picasso's lover Marie-Therèse Walter, holds the torch of truth and classical values over a dark world. The erotically tinged symbolism of Picasso's personal sexual and creative allegorisation here caused dismay among certain Republican officials, some of whom attempted to have the mural replaced by a more suitable work, with

a more positive tone. After the dissolution of the

anti-fascist movement early in 1937, Picasso, like some of his avant-garde associates. followed a radical political and aesthetic agenda. A mythicised, primitive form of utopian community was projected: not a society of individuals, but a kind of leaderless socialist community in which all were equal. For Picasso, Numancia was the epitome of just such a community - a community in which the people are united through sacrifice - and it is this notion that he tried to symbolise in his Guernica.

Picasso's ambiguous and con-

troversial response to the bombing of the Basque capital proved a disappointment to those Republicans who had looked to the artist for a clear directive. But he had clearly struggled over his commission, producing 45 sketches over a five-week period, and transforming the work through seven states. Photographs documenting the work's progress show that he had originally conceived a more leftist, Republican mural, before changing the central image of a wheat and reaching up to the Picasso reinforces the idea of sun (the raised fist being of course, the Republican salute) into the more baffling symbol of an electric are lamp similar to the one in his own studio - a detail that shifts the picture's emphasis away from the political towards the private and esoteric. And, while the photo-journalists captured the victims of the bombing in black-and-white clarity, Picasso employed a more problematic grisaille.

So, despite his public proclamations and the picture's enduring fame as a symbol of anti-war protest. Guernica ultimately inhabits a greyer area - as a statement not simply about the impossibility of representing a human tragedy like the Nazi bombing of Guernica, but about the impossibility

of representation itself.

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ECH OPEN Singles, sold in M Tabers (C.) g (Aux) bt I Sanchez (Fri best F Roig (Sp.) (Sp.) bt L Paes (Ind.)

consider whether they offer any improve-

ment on the human equivalents. There is

the chimpanzee House of Windsor, And

tional life is not an issue; Self's hero has

a messy emotional life which his

novel fails satisfactorily to

Like Brave New World,

another satire in which a

primitive is educated in

the new ways of a

What if chimps, rather than humans, had evolved into lords of Ruth Brandon acclaims a child's-eye view creation? Patrick Gale savours a beastly satire

Great Apes by. Will Self, Bloomsbury, £14.99

ather than grant the press the usual proof copies, Bloomsbury has produced just 80 hound manuscript" versions of Will Self's latest book, numbered and illegibly signed. This could be a piece of overweening vanity from so riskily style-conscious a novelist. After 50 or so pages, however, it emerges as a small piece of postmodern wit to prop up a weighty satire, one of whose targets is the contemporary art scene.

Challenging. Tate-hung painter Simon

Dykes wakes from a drug-fuelled night on

Only

other the tiles to find his world is not what it was. attempt. His inamorata has become a shrieking. violent chimpanzee, her smelly retriever a miniature pony. As he is carted off to Apes films. heavy sedation and a secure room in Charing Cross Hospital, we gather that this is no narcotic hangover but a complete rewrite of evolution. Of the great

Humanity becomes chimpunity, inhuman, inchimp. We glimpse a TV encounter between Anton Mosichimp and Loyd Grosschimp. Chat shows become gesture shows, to doorstep becomes to doorknuckle, and silence, the etymologically dubious signlence 7

apes, chimps, not humans, have proved the success story. Horses have been bred ever smaller to produce pets which usefully fertilise the garden, and dogs scaled up into beasts of burden and sporting transport.

These details aside, history has progressed exactly as we know it, Saatchis, Rwanda and all. Cars have far more gears and are steered with feet as well as hands. Buildings are slightly smaller and reader to reappraise the studded with hand-holds. Households real one. The are run as hierarchical, incestuous tribes chimp in which a female in oestrus, however whereby an infeyoung, can expect to be mated by father, rior animal must kowtow to a

Dykes comes into the care of Zach Busner, an Oliver Sacks figure who, spotting a career opportunity but truly fascinated, leads Simon out of hospital and into the shaggy bosom of his own Hampstead household. Simon comes to understand that his feeling that he is human is a delusion caused by brain damage. He grows to accept that he is a chimp and to flourish in chimp society. Doctor and patient

become friends and embark on a spiritual ing an extended family group - and to and intellectual quest that leads them to the dark heart of anthropology.

Exploiting an ape's near-human quala Swiftian energy to Self's scatology but Swift would surely not have chickened lties for satire is nothing new. Max. Mon Amour and His Monkey Wife spring to out, as Self does, from an appearance by mind, as does Peacock's Melincount, where an orang-utang is educated, taught the Swift's Gulliver is an observer whose emoflute, found a baronetcy and a seat in Parliament. Self renders

an entire chimpanzee civilisation, however, and with far more glee invention humourless Planet of the

always a danger, of course, of Great Apes becomone-joke Certain gags -like the ritual kissing of rear ends and cradling of testicles - are flogged to death. Self is a word-relisher and has clearly enjoyed setting his

There is

and convert any word smacking of human rather than chimp cul-Humanity becomes chimpunity, inhuman, inchimp. We glimpse a TV encounter between Anton Mosichimp and Loyd Grosschimp. Chat shows become gesture shows, to doorstep becomes to doorknuckle, and

word-processor pro-

gram to hunt down

Self's satirical premise works most vigorously on a sexual and scatological level. Child abuse is redefined as neglecting to mount one's pubescent daughters on a regular basis, monogamy is a wor-rying sign of social immaturity, and Oxford dons relish decanters of lovingly matured shit. Here, his looking-glass world causes the

rítual

silence, the etymologically dubious

senior and where insolence is punished with a burst of violence followed by a loving grooming session is portrayed so as to emphasise the parallels with the stress and

sycophancy of our own "pecking order".

In time the image of a chimpified London, in which humans are an endangered species laughed at in zoos, becomes too in search of his missing human "son" in familiar to be merely funny. Self leads one to look beyond the surface grotesquerie the artist's restitution as well-adjusted to assess the chimp ways - of raising chil- chimp has been too successful. His hopes dren, of cherishing hierarchy, of cultivat. and values are no longer ours.

of adult tragedy

The Way I Found Her by Rose Tremain, Sinclair-Stevenson, £15.99

or story-gobblers like me, the recent return of plot to the British literary novel is a welcome development. It's all very well trying to do the Turgenev, Joyce or Nabokov thing if you're Turgeney, Joyce or Nabokov, but most are not. In the absence of towering genius, plot can help a lot.

Rose Tremain's latest novel, The Way ! Found Her, has an excellent plot. It is (at least on one level) a mystery story. Thir-teen-year-old Lewis Little goes to Paris with his mother, Alice. They are to stay with the popular novelist Valentina Gavrilovich, whose works Alice translates, in Valentina's opulent establishment near the Parc Monceau. Valentina disappears; Lewis, who has fallen in love with her, determines to find her, and succeeds. Lewis's father, Hugh, does not accompany them. He proposes to build Alice a summer-house while they are away. Lewis refers to this as his "toilet": it starkly contrasts the humdrum Devon of

This novel succeeds on many levels; and one of the reasons is the plot, which grips like the excellent mystery it is. But, unlike genre fiction, where circumstantial plot is all and characterisation an optional extra, character is at the very cen-tre of The Way I Found Her. It is character and its consequences, rather than cir-

marriage and family life with exotic

Paris. The stay in Paris fatally

changes all the premises upon

which the summer-house was

cumstance, which fuels its action. The strange events the book recounts are seen through the eyes of Lewis, and its success depends upon Rose Tremain's convincing us that here is a real, living, breathing 13year-old boy - no easy feat, especially if you're a woman and teenage is some way behind you. She takes even more risks by using Alain-Fournier's classic Le Grand Meaulnes, also narrated by an adolescent boy (and written by a young man) as a continuous motif. That The Way I Found Her survives even this hubristic comparison is an indication of her

Nevertheless, I was not immediately convinced. "I think," says Lewis, 'Tll start with the moment when I noticed my mother had become a beautiful

woman." Do 13-year-old boys, immersed in the solipsism of adolescence, notice this kind of thing about parents? But Alice's beauty is essential to the plot, so Lewis has to notice it; and one of the book's themes is his awakening from childhood into the ple do notice such things. The complication of adolescence, of

course, is that you are not yet adult

though you may sometimes seem so.

Children experience the world differently to adults. This - the different ways in which the same events may be viewed — is the pivot upon which the book turns.

Lewis, intent on his own voyage of dis-covery and following his inexorable boy's logic, thinks he alone can explain



Lewis, intent on his own voyage of discovery and following his inexorable boy's logic, thinks he alone can explain Valentina's disappearance. He uses his own passions - for chess, computers, the books he is reading, and above all for Valentina herself - to guide him 7

Valentina's disappearance. He uses his own passions - for chess, computers, the books he is reading, and above all for Valentina herself – to guide him. But the adults are following a different logic, a different trail. They see what he sees, but draw different conclusions. Tremain shows us how both logics, both conclusions, are valid. They are not, however, compatible; and it is this incompatibility which will lead, eventually, to tragedy.

Tremain has managed to avoid the false naivety and awful archness that are one of the great dangers of writing as a child. Her evocation of Paris and Valentina through Lewis's eyes is wonderful, his changing relationship with Alice wholly convincing, the fantasy-life he builds around Valentina delicately and erotically done. Lewis himself-becomes more engaging as we know him better. He is unnatcommand of French is, to say the least, unusual in a hitherto monoglot 13-yearold - but the reader becomes immersed in the inexorable adolescent logic of his

world. He is a formidable creation. The Way I Found Her begins joyously, but the end is tragic, inescapably black as only adolescence can be. It's oddly affecting. Will Lewis ever recover from his awful loss? There's no way of knowing. But we

Human, all too human

Louise Doughty yearns for a little less naked truth

Ten Men by Elisa Segrave, Faber, £10.99

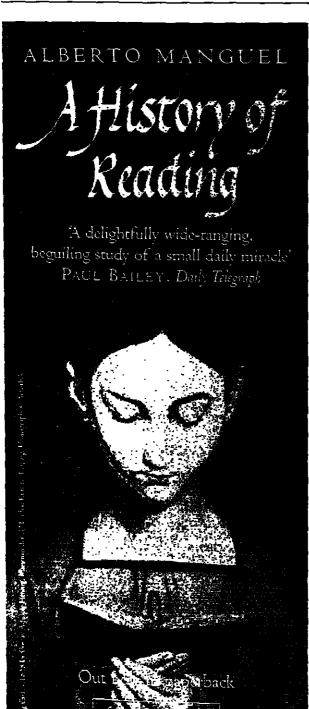
reative writing tutors spend much time explaining that a fictional work must have a form autobiographical reportage is not enough. Elisa Segrave's The Diany of a Breast was a frank and funny account of her battle with breast cancer. Her less recent reminiscences are now published as fiction. Ten Men is amusing, quirky and well written in places, but emphatically not a novel. Nor do the subdivided sections have the internal coherence of short stories.

Her material, a series of ancedotes. has been cleverly herded into chapters entitled variously "My Father" or "Martin" or "David Again". But the protagonist is always the female narrator, a young woman with a wry sense of observation but a curious inability to look at herself. The narrator's father emerges as a vivid eccentric; a former naval attaché happy to explain the facts of life to his young daughter over breakfast, much to the chagrin of the alcoholic Catholic cook. The physical aspects of life are never far away. "Another detail about his dead mother which seemed to preoccupy my father was that she had one sponge for her bottom and one for the rest of her body. Why did he find this so irritating and why did he mention it so often?" This works well, but the childlike tone continues. Initially cute and engaging, it starts to irritate when the narrator is a grown woman.

Some chapters work better than others. In "Martin", the narrator demonstrates her surprising capacity to fall in love with unlikely objects. Martin has "a pink face and floppy brown hair ... he was overweight and perspired". She travels around America on Greyhound buses with him and falls book, line and sinker. Segrave makes this entirely plausible. Like many of the men, Martin is not so much described as glimpsed. A full picture never emerges, but he seems as real and unknowable as a man you might pass in a supermarket.

The self-deprecation implied in these unlikely but convincing affairs is undermined by the narrator's odd avoidance of self-analysis. We discover that her wealthy grandmother has bought her a house in Hackney and are asked to sympathise with what a pain it is looking after your own house when you are only 21. Most of the men are irritated by the fact that the narrator doesn't need to work and can afford to is an irritation the reader shares. The implication is that it is all leading up to a catharsis, but even the father's death does not prove a turning point.

If this were a memoir, it might be acceptable that it doesn't lead anywhere. When it is packaged as fiction, one is left with a feeling of: So what? Segrave can certainly write, but a series of vignettes, however entertaining, do not a novel make.



I RECENTED TO

Infoporridge and boffin waffle

Independent choice: techno-thrillers by Mat Coward

believes

itself a Utopia, Great Apes expends so

much energy on the details of a social sys-

tem that its emotional narrative comes to

seem secondary to its one big idea. If the

novel peters out just when it should

deliver a punchy climax - as Dykes goes

the African bush - it is perhaps because

men struggling with big technologies: vast, dangerous machines, like space rockets and nuclear power stations. Today, all we're left with is software. The dangers are mostly digital and the men don't need to be big, since all they do for 500 pages is sit in front of a blinking cursor, drinking coffee. Computers employ a technology most of us use, but don't understand. That presents computhrillers with a generic problem. Floppies, hard drives, moderns: these things aren't just

humdrum, but ho-hum-drum. There are two principal ways of writing novels full of such specialist jargon. One is to explain everything, and thus risk boring the reader, the other is not to explain everything – and thus risk boring the reader. Business journalist Matthew Lynn, in his debut Insecurity (Heinemann, £10), has decided to do both. So we get long passages of infoportidge and boffin waffle. half-heartedly disguised as dialogue, at the end of which uneducated home keyboarders like me still have no idea what anybody's talking about.

Jack is Special Assistant to the chairman of Kizog. With a name like that, it has to be (and indeed is) a corrupt pharmaceuticals giant. Jack's co-hero, Tara, is beautiful, oriental and a researcher into human viruses. When they discover Kizog's evil-doing, they run away and hole up in a hotel with a few grand's worth of hacking equipment purchased on Tottenham Court Road. They emerge with their hacked proof (the regular Maltese Falcon of computhrillers) for a final raceagainst-time scene, set mostly in a committee room at the Bank of England.

Lynn's publishers believe this book brings the tension and tradition of John Buchan hurtling into the Nineties". While the set-up is tedious, its unravelling is quite exciting in an off-the-peg sort of way.

John McLaren's Press Send (Simon & Schuster, £10.99) is also a lively enough caper. A "systems inventor" dving of can-cer uses his last months to perfect a break-

echno-thrillers used to be about big men struggling with big technolo-gies: vast, dangerous machines, like through in artificial intelligence. By down-loading himself into his creation, he effects a posthumous electronic revenge on everyone who ever thumped him or ripped him off. Unfortunately, the first half consists of a bitty satire on the val-ues of 1990s San Francisco, set in the wacky world of venture capitalism.

Told almost entirely in unattributed dia-logue, Press Send — which has already made its British author a dollar millionaire - contains a few very good jokes and some ancient SF ideas. An ever-present risk of cross-genre writing is that what seems ground-breakingly new to one school will, to another, reek of Bakelite. McLaren's press release claims that "in a computer world, nothing is impossible". Well, there's your problem. If nothing's impossible, then there's nothing left to write about Meanwhile, McLaren and Lynn both suffer from the undeniable fact that if there is one thing more boring than computers, it is business. Only the solipsists who named a minor City reform "Big

Bang" could possibly think otherwise. Computers can occasionally be interesting, but they can never be exciting. Duane Franklet, computer troubleshooter and author of Bad Memory (Gollancz, £16.99), seems to acknowledge this with his office-bound settings, low-key characters and convincingly toneless dialogue. True, there are a few murders in this very readable story of a Fortune 500 computer company held to ransom by a brilliant saboteur, but one gets the feeling that they are there largely for appearances sake. Franklet's real themes are office politics and commerce's dangerous dependence on information technology. He does hint at something more apocalyptic, but pretty much forgets it. Just as well, since his deadpan "Dilbert in Peril"

approach is his book's greatest strength. Greg Iles's Mortal Fear (Hodder & Stoughton, £17.99) is by a long way the best written and most satisfying of these books. It's also a phoney. It pretends to be a computhriller, about a serial killer its master.



who picks his female victims from among the subscribers to Eros, an on-line erotica forum. But actually it's a Southern morality tale of guilt and redemption, a form as thoroughly traditional and longdebugged as an abacus.

Iles, writing mostly in the present tense, uses the self-consciously literary, Greek-tragedy style often found in Deep South crime fiction. Here, acts of innocent foolishness or human weakness have terrible, disproportionate consequences. Family secrets rot and stink; sins are punished by an irrational, Old Testament version of Fate. Real Mississippi men, even those who ride mice instead of pick-ups, must eviscerate their inner demons before they can hope to win an f2f (face-to-face) confrontation with sex, marriage, or psy-cho-killers. To do the right thing is to live; to live with cowardice is to die. Morality

may be relative, but reality is never virtual.

Mortal Fear is a fine piece of writing and a tremendous thriller. In it, technology knows its place - as fiction's servant, never



Boyd Tonkin

Victorian sage once ruefully admitted that A ruefully aunument the mention of poetry could clear an English crowd quicker than a fire-hose. There was a time when the prospect of a Festival of Commonwealth Literature which climaxes on Tuesday with the award of the 10th Commonwealth Writers' Prizes - might have had the same effect on me. Yet I've been oddly enthralied of late by the intricacies of the judging process for the best first book from the South Pacific region. And that fascination may have the same root as the sudden burst of warmth I felt for the happy-clappy Nigerian cardinal who featured in a recent TV guide to runnersand-riders for the Papacy.

The reason for these funny turns is not that hard to find. Boorish jingoism has stained this election campaign to a depth that beggars belief. We're all agreed, it seems, that wogs begin in Brussels and that the Sierra drivers of Swindon want nothing more from their "statesmen" than a rousing buildog bark of "Home Sweet Home". As the real Middle England grows ever more diverse, the phantom land invoked by politicians shrinks to the size of a sound-bite. In this mean time, the value of any global network based on solidarity - even the spineless



week in books

Commonwealth or scheming

Curia - burns more brightly. Commonwealth literature", of course, means precious little in itself. To academics, it's just a quaint fur-trimmed euphemism for the post-colonial writing that began to flourish as the Union Flag came down. To publishers, it's no more than the English-language market shorn of the States. Yet the richness of the thing makes up for the vagueness of the term. Recent winners of the main award have included Vikram Seth, David Malouf, Louis de Bernierès and Rohinton Mistry. That's arguably a stronger record than the Booker itself. (And the victors get an audience with the Queen rather than a going-over by Late Review thugs.) On Tuesday, expect a close contest between Sult by Earl Lovelace from Trinidad (winner of the "Caribbean and Canada" heat) and the ubiquitous Beryl Bainbridge who bats for Liverpool and the scary-sounding "Eurasia" with Every Man for Himself.

Alastair Niven and Michael Schmidt point out in their tasty new selection of Commonwealth writing. Enigmas and Arrivals (Carcanet, £9,95), that much of the best work under their broad rubric tells "a story of migrancy and re-settlement". As it happens, that story fits much of the planet's population. There are even rumours it might apply to many drivers of mid-range family saloons in marginal seats. But (by Jingo) don't tell that to the spin-doctors.

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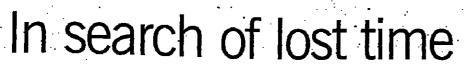
is not father was that de-Sportize for her bottomat

> narratives, damnation is simply replaced with the catharsis of the deathbed. could be less capable of being tamed by narrative than the lack of an ending? The title suggests that he is proposing a

> grand metaphor of his own. The Aids generation of the New York of the 1970s and 1980s are to be recast as the performers of Haydn's famously elegaic symphony, leaving the stage one by one until only the last violinist remains. On the surface, this narfind an Esterhazy, he can't get his stuff pub-lished. His elegances of phrase barely conceal basic terrors and confusions. He falls in love with the wrong guys; he never gets laid enough. In a culture which takes every detail of life's styles seriously, his skills (social, literary, sexual) are all dangerously close to the cocotte's.

> His sentences are thrown down like Atlanta's apples, to delay the pursuing monster, oblivion - whether of erotic or literary rejection, or just age. And sometimes the combination of an apparently plotless surge of recollection with brilliant detail makes them seem like the over-rich cakes Orpheus throws to Cerberus, distracting him while the dead are smuggled out. In fact, White's plotlessness is deliber-

> > Gaglow



Neil Bartlett is overwhelmed by an elegy for the New York generation lost to Aids

▲ The Aids generation of

the New York of the 1970s

and 1980s are to be

recast as the performers of

Haydn's famously elegaic

symphony, leaving the

stage one by one until only

the last violinist remains.

On the surface, this

narrator is no first violin;

he's a mess. Sleeping his

way through Manhattan,

he fails to find an

Esterhazy; he can't get his

stuff published. He falls in

love with the wrong guys;

he never gets laid

The Farewell Symphony by Edmund White, Chatto, £16.99

s it just me, or is anyone else tired of being told what books mean? These days, blurbs don't just want to sell you the book; they want to save you the bother of reading it. The advance word on Edmund White's new novel is that here is the book the public has been waiting for ever since A Boy's Own Story crossed over into W H Smith and made contemporary gay fiction a potential source of real profit.

The back cover can't quite bring itself to say "last will and testament", or to imply that Aids can now be safely relegated to the past, but the implications are clear. Here is the Aids novel, with plenty of kinky sex, enough redeeming literary kudos to keep Smith's happy, and the incalculable marketing plus of an author who can be portrayed as a dying generation's last representative. Such a profile of White's book is as bateful as it is innac-

Not that The Farewell Symphony isn't autobiographical. It is, but in a very specific way. White gives us White's life in the same way that Proust gives us his Marcel's, from the 1950s to 1995, from Christopher Street to Père Lachaise. Variations on three main themes - writing (or rather, getting published), gay culture and Aids - reveal how the gaining of wisdom and success is plotted against the loss of, literally, everyone. These days, Aids is conventionally used as the logical, or theological, conclusion to a nastily neat version of gay history: repression erupts into liberation which corrupts into hedonism and results in damnation. In pro-gay

Not for White. Where others, from the devisers of Tory propaganda to contrivers of tear-stained finales in Angels in America or My Night with Reg - have found a potent metaphor. White has sensed only a disruption of all meaning. As the disease changes shape, from the Grim Reaper incarnate to a prosaic long-term condition, it looks like he is right. What

enough 7 rator is no first violin; he's a mess. Sleep- ate. The whole rambling narrative of ing his way through Manhattan, he fails to memory is strung between two brief mentions of the dead lover whose absence is ond page, describes White stumbling with grief at his funeral; the second, on the penultimate page, merely sketches the circumstances of his death. Both end with the author lapsing into appalled silence. These silences, coming precisely where novels with less nerve deliver their big set pieces and big morals, are suddenly and unexpectedly frightening. I read White

with and for pleasure; these pages had me first terrified and then howling with grief. The bracketing of a plotless, timehaunted narrative between a sudden opening and a thematic reprise isn't all that White has reworked from Proust, who was paradoxically liberated to write

the unwriteable by the death of a great love. Something similar seems to have happened to White: the novel is written without fear. History is left to take care of it's own epic self while the author is driven by snobbery, ambition and lust.

An absolute need to ingratiate (Proust may have been a Jewish queen, but White comes from Ohio) covers an absolute solitariness. For Marcel's Faubourg, read White's Manhattan; their aristocracies are both beautiful, both gone for ever, and both of their chroniclers are ambushed by self-hatred.

Not for White the easy pieties of assimilation; he is unafraid of admitting how bewilderingly damaged most gay men feel most of the time. The main formal difference is that White's catalogue of anecdotes is shorter, more calculatedly deranged and salacious than Marcel's.

This is time condensed by drugs rather than expanded by insomnia. His courtships take only minutes; he can dress for a ball in jeans and T-shirt. His Odette is called Kevin; his Swann is called Joshua; his versions of Jupien, Charlus and Saint Loup are legion, and in the good cause of recherché he includes imself in their fornications. Happily, White basn't "come to terms" with homosexuality, and so is still finding new terms to describe it. His couplings lurch from the gorgeous to pointless and his prose is sordid, technical and ecstatic - like sex.

The Glasgow Citizens' Theatre once famously translated Proust's title as "A Waste of Time". White's narrator refers to his own chronicle as "an archaeology of gossip". Two-thirds of the way into the book, this reader found himself trapped in a featureless desert of semi-fictionalised detail - names dropped, cocks engulfed as exhausting and infuriating as any of Marcel's meditations on Romanesque iconography. But then, as with Proust, comes the pay-off; the bracketing of all this waste with the simple fact that the narrator continues to live and write, knowing that no first-person narrative can climax with the hero's death.

Here, at the very last minute, when Time is regained, White refuses to console or explain. It would have been so easy to close the story with a redeeming true love that would put the long journey through the waste land of promiscuity in perspective. The fact is that White is writing for no one but himself. His art is a dark one, and you can take it or leave it.

His chosen title is a gift for sentimentalists. They would love it if he could complete his own analogy with Proust and, having written his concluding pages, die. I should just point out that some HIV-posthe book's true subject. One, on the sec- itive people don't, these days. Lacking such an obvious alibi as victimhood, this is writing which is as hard to recommend as, say, Pina Bausch's dancing. All I can honestly say is that I love it, this gutter mandarin - obscene, capricious, heartbroken, furious, vain, fiercely moral - and that this is the book that finally allowed me to weep for all I've had to watch happen these past few years.

White has written a life against death; he has pitched the small sound of writing against the big noise of absolute silence. If the book has a point, it is shockingly simple: this man you thought was the last violinist, playing a tune written for him by history, turns out to be the composer.

The sensitive plant |Unsheathing

Frederic Raphael eavesdrops on a hero who hovers between fiction and gossip

The Untouchable by John Banville,

uite as if they were Gilbert and Sullivan, or Fortnum and Mason, the double act of Burgess and Maclean, who defected more than 40 years ago, retains a certain folkloric place in the history of England. They were technically traitors but they were our traitors, principled and self-tormented in the (dull) case of Maclean; campy, Quixotic, larky with the thick-lipped, irresistible (to some) Burgess. If we now know that Marxism-Leninism was a sell and the Soviet Union a gangster state, those who were infatuated with Uncle Joe remain slightly immune from censure; after all, Russia was on our side against Hitler.

As for B and M, there is something almost patriotic in the duo's capacity both to be totally pissed and to deceive the oikish Special Branch, and to bring off a John Buchanish bunk to Moscow. Alan Benneit's An Englishman Abroad has already turned the exiled Burgess into a figure of puffy, pouffy pathos. No one, however, has made the unenthusiastically uxorious Maclean cuter than a solemn dupe. Cuckolded in Moscow by Graham Greene's chum, Kim Philby, he is a stick of celery that gets no reheating. On the other hand, ex-Sir Anthony Blunt has also been rehabilitated by Bennett, in John Schlesinger's 4 Question of Attribution, as a palatial pal

of Her Majesty Prunella Scales. Now John Banville has taken up Blunt and his whole Oxbridge galère and mythologised them. He masks Blunt as the Ulsterman Victor Maskell, scholarly scion of a family of "Protestant" Irish turneoats. Victor is the son of a bishop whose fat second wife, Hattie, is one of the minor charms and true inventions of a well-pop-

Since duplicity is the theme of this artful composition. Victor both is and is not Blunt. If he is camouflaged with a fictional half-Jewish wife and two children, one of whom he has actually fathered, Maskell echoes Blunt undisguisedly in being the leading authority on Poussin, keeper of the royal pictures and head of an Institute which is a dead ringer for the Courtauld. He is acutely and convincingly analysed as a cold fish sometimes urgently on heat.

Victor's juvenile crush on his eventual brother-in-law, Nick Brevoort, leads him into one of those unlovely cross-dressed juvenile traitor when he is not yet conbecomes a sadder Old Thing, but remains faithfully unfaithful, like some updated Guinevere. Her affair with Querell, the devious, devilish Catholic novelist (whose name derives, cleverly and too obviously. from Greene's Querry in A Burnt-Out Case), parallels the adultery of another Viv, T S Eliot's wife, with Bertrand Russell. Bertie himself does not even get a walk-on part in a show stuffed with apostate apostles. Of Eliot himself, the narrator shrewdly remarks, "I recognised at once in that shadowed, camel-eyed and timbrolose voice the marks of the lifelong, obsessive dissembler". Such asides are proof of Banville's intelligence, always sharper than his imginative powers.



 ↓ John Banville has taken up Blunt and his whole Oxbridge galère and mythologised them 7

speak and Lawrence Durrell's flourishes, the narrative veers from mundane condescension to poetic loftiness. There is plenty of sex (mostly queer and fastidiously dwelt upon) and well-observed weather. I preferred the pretentiousness ("the ashy waffle" of a gas fire) to the terseness ("Nick turned too and vaguely peered"), but the unevenness of writing scarcely damages its ravelled readability. The rancid elegance of a decadent upper crust whose scruples have withered sooner than its power is gloatingly conveyed.

The Untouchable unputdownably strad-

dles the crossing point between fiction and ossip. It veers between the palace (where George VI is implausibly loquacious) and the louche clubs of Soho. The messier aspects of pre-Wolfenden London are compellingly conveyed. Maskell pronounces a touching elegy for the 1950s, when danger added zest to the smarter public lavatories. If Maskell is genuinely inhabited by his author, "Boy" Bannister (the Guy Burgess look-and-smell-alike) always depends for his tarnished halo on our knowing who he really is.

Art and artfulness are whisked appetisingly together in Maskell's lifelong obsession with Poussin. The symbolism of the marriages of inconvenience, with Nick's master's painting of *The Death of Seneca* sister, Vivienne, who is first "loved" by the -is it or isn't it a fake, or a plant, or both? - is smoothly creamed in. An early refsciously homosexual and she is in drag. erence to a patch of blue sky "in the shape The hoydenish Bright Young Thing of a bird in flight which is the true clandestine centre-point" in another painting, and its final use when Maskell is waiting for death, or suicide, is but the subtlest evidence of the author's shaping skills.

Unlike Aldous Huxley's Point Counter Point, the classic inter-war roman à clef, The Untouchable gives one the feeling that many of the characters have been pressed between the pages, like old flowers, rather than re-vitalised for them. I take it that the sustained, jeering anti-Semitism of the novel, in which Jews of various kinds and sizes have unsavoury roles, is intended as part of the period flavour, unless it's just Irish. The resultant stew is always spicy and sometimes delicious, but the chef, for all his lavishness, can justly be accused of having opened a tin too many.

the blade

Marcelle d'Argy Smith appreciates a change of pace

The Web of Belonging by Stevie Davies, The Women's Press, £6.99

he trouble with reading Stevie Davies's latest novel is that the woman writes so beautifully, you find yourself reading very slowly. "Come on, love," says the heroine Jess as you open the book, "let's saunter. When did we last amble? We're always on the gallop - especially you poor love." And even though she's talking to her husband - handsome, solid and dependable Jacob, to whom she's been happily married for 20 years - it might well be an exhortation to the reader.

And so you, too, stop galloping. You find yourself sinking into a chair or maybe even going to bed unusually early to abandon yourself to a world in peaceful Shrewsbury where Jess, a pillar of the community, lives in the house where she was born, together with Jacob's mother May, his aunt Brenda and uncle Nathan, They came to stay after "the golden interlude" when she and Jacob had fostered a much-loved child. With selfless dedication and quiet religious conviction, she's given up her job as a librarian to care for the oldies.

Fortysomething woman in denial and masochist supreme, Jess insists she's enjoyed "a more fulfilled life" than anyone she'd ever known. Too good to be true and as fascinating as a rainy Sabbath? Well, Jacob thinks so. Tired of sharing his life with a childless, sexless saint and demanding relatives whom Jess calls "sweetheart, durling and love", he disappears on page five.

Slowly and inexorably, Jess's life starts to fall apart. She now has to question the entire foundations on which her life has been built, to ponder the question:

"Higgamus hoggamus,

woman's monogamous, hoggamus higgamus, man is polygamous' and to cope with the younger woman in Jacob's life. She realises, among other things, that she is "a blade." sheathed". It's hard to build a new life while still tending to a manipulative, spectacularly selfish chatterbox mother-in-law who once punched a health visitor on the jaw because she didn't like her face; or while fretting about dignified Nathan who thinks he should go into a home. And catering to frail, nervous Brenda, who spends even longer in the lavatory than May. There are good friends, even a man who

shows interest, and Jess isn't the type

to crack or walk away from those she

cares for. Or is she? Stevie Davies reveals all in a novel which is tender, perceptive, almost painful in its honesty and hilariously funny. Its characters are so marvellously drawn that you want more, more, more. I started to re-read this book the moment I'd finished it in case I'd missed a precious line. There are good writers, there are very good writers. And there is Stevie Davies, who is in a class of her own.

Straddled between Greene's thriller-Before the deluge

Penelope Lively enjoys a journey through the foreign country of the past

Gaglow by Esther Freud, Hamish Hamilton, £16.99

n her first novel, Hideous Kinky, Esther Freud pulled off that challenging feat of presenting a child's-eye view. It is a lovely book, precise and unsentimental, charting a childhood that the reader identifies as bizarre and disturbing entirely through the accepting and judgmental perception of the child.

Gaglow again displays Freud's talent for evoking the climate of time and place by means of an admirably simple, direct style. She is not one of those writers who use ten words where one would do - her effects depend on a knack of clean, spare description and brief, uncom-plicated dialogue. In this book she has given herself the extra challenge of nipping from one time and place to another, as the focus shifts from Sarah, today, to the Belgard family back in Germany at the time of the 1914-18 war.

The Belgards were Sarah's ancestors. Eva, the youngest of the three sisters who form the pivot of the alternative story, was her grandmother, whom she met at 18 when casually taken to visit by her painter father. Sarah is one of his three daughters by different mothers, treated with affectionate detachment and roped in as models as often as they will comply. Through her father's throwaway references to the background of his childhood and this lost country estate. Sarah becomes so interested in their mysterious ancestry that when Gaglow suddenly becomes a reality - recovered for the family in the restitution of property in the for-mer East Germany after 1989 - she develops an obsession to visit the place before it is sold.

These flights from one ambience to the other are very effective, with Sarah's narrative serving as a kind of tether to the impressionistic method of the Belgard family sequences. Seen through the eyes of Eva. they again hovoke that child's vision which combines observation with

incomprehension. A whole lifestyle is evoked with great economy. There are no ponderous descriptions but somehow the ambience lifts effortlessly from the focused prose. The prosperous Jewish family's fortunes fade as the war proceeds, until the end finds them almost destitute. Internal

tensions arise between the girls and the mother they have decided to despise and ignore in favour of their adored governess, Fraulein

Emmanuel, the cherished son and brother, will be swallowed by the war and return to a different world. The gradual release of information about what exactly happened flickers cleverly between past and present narratives, until at the end everything comes together in a final denouement.

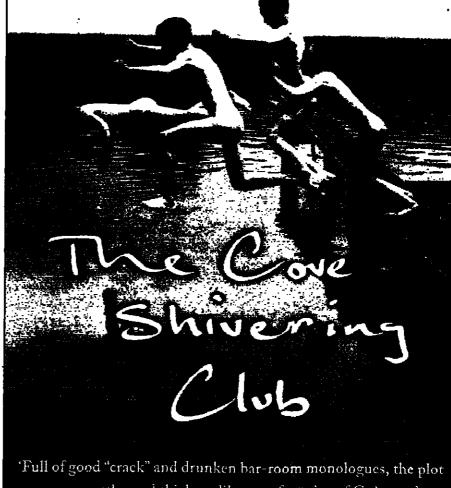
There is also the matter of Sarah herself, who gives birth to the child of a man who dumped her when she announced her pregnancy. The baby gets incorporated into his grandfather's painting, faute de mieux, but also nicely reflects that compelling physical unity of a mother and a new baby. The child brings out the best in Esther Freud's simple, accurate language: "the rounded eyelids, pale purple, and the eyebrows a tiny sketch of gold." Sarah's intensity of feeling about him is also evoked with minimal fuss. as is her ambivalent response to her former boyfriend. He flits in and out of the story with catastrophic effect on this reader, who was yelling "Don't do it!" from the side-lines as Sarah's resolve falters and she seems dangerously inclined to take the wretch back.

This brief novel leaves one with the impression of having read a book three times the length. Subsidiary characters - Sarah's two sisters, the Belgards' servants and neighbours have a presence and flavour beyond their walkon roles. Equally, so much is packed into the fragmented story of their life before and during the war that there seems to have been a leisurely narrative flow rather than a series of sharp vignettes.

To bring this off is a considerable achievedevastates the three girls until the final revenovel by a highly talented writer.

In a seaside village in the west of Ireland, a generation of men swim against the tide of feminism, modernity and mixed bathing ...

'Very funny and very, very human' Roddy Doyle



pours, settles and thickens like a perfect pint of Guinness' Observer

4th FOURTH ESTATE Publisher of the Year

ment, the only risk being a lack of underpin-ning - crucially, perhaps, in the infatuation of Emanuel for Fraulein Schulze, a strange and eventually malign figure whose disappearance lation. "An enormous woman with red hair and great feet like a man," her charismatic power with the children comes across, but not the source of Emanuel's passion. But this is the only significant weakness: here is an accomplished

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Ancestral piles

Piers Brendon meets the hard-up nobility who sought salvation in the tourist trade

The Fall and Rise of the Stately Home by Peter Mandler, Yale University Press. £19.95

n 1871 a fire damaged Warwick Castle, ruining many private apartments. The castle had long been popular with visitors, who apparently paid one housekeeper £30,000 in tips. So a restoration appeal was launched, without reference to the 4th Earl of Warwick in order to protect his "sensitive honour". Radicals attacked the fund but supporters argued it would restore part of the national heritage. Ruskin himself, though a champion of castles, found the subscription disgusting at a time of widespread destitution: "If a noble family can-not rebuild their own eastle, in God's name let them live in the nearest ditch till they can."

Nevertheless, £9,000 was raised, the castle was repaired and visitors were soon guided round "the all that was destroyed by fire; hancient harmour. Guy of Warwick's 'elmet; hetruskin vawses ..." A few years later, the Earl imposed a charge of a shilling for entry. anticipating later stately home entrepreneurs. So, like Windsor Castle. Warwick was private property while it was standing but belonged to the nation when it burned down. Its true status was unequivocally demonstrated in 1978 when the eighth Earl sold it to Madame Tussaud's.

This vignette illustrates many of the themes explored in Peter Mandler's splendid scholarly survey of the fortunes of the stately homes of England over the past 200 years. The book explodes the pervasive myth that country houses are unchanging Arcadian monuments, cherished by owners and venerated by a populace who regard them as the quintessence of Englishness. Mandler argues that even critics of the present country house cult, who see it as an expression of snobbish nostalgia, misread the past. They magnify the aristocratic contri-

influence of popular culture.

Thus the Victorian vogue for country-house visiting, which peaked in 1870, was financed by higher wages, facilitated by more leisure time, fuelled by steam and fostered by travel agents like Thomas Cook (who wanted to keep people out of pubs). It was also inspired by the quest for a cultural inheritance which had more to do with romantics like Walter Scott than with prosaic aristocrats. They themselves tolerated the intrusion to assuage class antagonisms.

Struck by the agrarian depression in the late 19th century, many owners charged for entry, sold or closed their houses. Chatsworth and Knole restricted access. Waldorf Astor built a stone wall topped with broken glass around Cliveden, earning himself the nickname "Walled-Off Astor". As the peerage faced fiscal and political assaults which culminated in Lloyd George's People's Budget, its palatial mansions were more often deemed "fortresses of barbarism" (Matthew Arnold's phrase) than strongholds of civilisation. The proprietors looked upon them as white elephants. So after the First World War great estates were broken up and, after the Second, demolitions continued apace. Between the wars visits to stately homes reached their nadir. Only about two dozen were open, as opposed to 350 today.

The current boom did not really begin until the 1960s. Governments had earlier given tax relief, helped the National Trust and subsidised owners who opened their doors. But what chiefly revived stately homes was the arrival of a vast new public, motorised and conservationminded. They flocked to enjoy houses that the Gowers Report called "England's greatest contribution to the visual arts", and valued homeliness as well as stateliness.

This summary does scant justice to Mandler's long, sophisticated but sometimes tiresomely bution to national heritage while neglecting the abstract account. It is certainly open to criti-



patricians, Mandler underestimates the quasimagical sway they have exercised over England's caste-ridden society. As late as 1939, Chips Channon could crow: "It is the aristoc-

cism. While admirably tart about the taste of racy which still runs this country although nobody seems to realise it." Nevertheless, this book is less a tour d'horizon than a tour de force. Moreover, it is handsomely illustrated but modestly priced - another triumph for Yale.

Dance to the music of time

Geoff Dyer learns raving history

Altered State: the story of Ecstasy culture and Acid House by Matthew Collin with contributions from John Godfrey, Serpent's Tail, £10.99

uture social histories of our period will make much of the outcome of next week's election. Yet in the context of the sea change engendered by chemicals and music described here, that event seems like an incidental detail. The structure of feeling of Britain has been changed in ways that will be manifest long after the next government has come and gone. Fashion and music change quickly, but we can take solace in Ecstasy culture's "unprecedented longevity" The music has kept improving and, amazingly, the scene has kept growing. Altered State explains how.

The chief difficulty in writing about E culture is the enormous gulf between those who have been part of it and those outside. From within, the tone tends towards the cringe-making sub-literacy of the recent Disco Biscuits anthology. Back in the late 1970s, by contrast, someone like Dick Hebdige puffed up his reputation by putting "youth culture" through a sub-Roland Barthes mincer, the novelty depending on the palpable gap between what was being discussed and the style of its dissection. Since the hallmark of E culture is that it is participatory, any attempt to process it in these terms would be laughable. Matthew Collin's and John

Godfrey's excellent book is dedicated to the friends who lived it with us", but it is also a model of judicious evaluation and clarity. True to their subject, they emphasise that their version of events offers one of a number of possible remixes. It is hard to imagine that theirs will soon be bettered. Much of the story - from the rediscovery of MDMA (the active component of Ecstasy) in the 1960s, the Warehouse, lbiza, raves and Leah Betts ("a symbol not of innocence defiled but of the chasm in understanding between generations") to super-clubs catering for "the chemical generation" - will be vaguely

familiar. Yet events already

semi-mythical are synched in with obscure incidents, and the experiences of ravers, to create a narrative that is constantly informative and utterly compulsive. Since the initial acid-house cult has long since splintered into God knows how many subsects, this in itself is no mean

achievement. Even more impressive. though, is the way that the narrative is shaped. A few minutes after starting the prologue, you feel a rush of admiration for the way that the myriad inflections and ambiguities have been arrayed. The recurring story within Eestasy culture," it argues, "is of people coming into the scene, being inspired by the revelatory flash of the primal Eestasy experience. then ... altering the direction of the scene itself by applying their own personal frame of reference to their

experience." The attractions of E culture are obvious: "It is the best entertainment format on the market, a deployment of technologies - musical. chemical and computer - to deliver altered states of consciousness." At the same time, it "offers a forum to which people can bring narratives about class, race, sex, economics or morality. While the culture challenged the "vested interests that control the leisure industry" its dependence on an illegal drug meant that gangsters were soon fighting over the profits. "Thousands danced in blissed-out ignorance" of the fact that "their pleasures were facilitated by violence and terror".

On the one hand, E culture is subversive - "as drug use became normalised criminality was democratised". On the other. subversion has been commodified. Like all the best historians, what's more. the authors have that knack of making this analysis an inherent - rather than supplementary - quality of the narrative itself.

Altered State is not just timely; it was crying out to be written. Anyone who has played a small part in this still unfolding story will want to read this book because it explains what they have lived through; anyone who hasn't.

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What a load of merchant bankers

weekend, when my father was down from the north-east on business, we went to the Eton vs Harrow match. The weather was not good and neither was the cricket, but the admission price was more than justified when, fortified by the endless supply of drink in the parental hampers. a group of 50 or so floppy-haired youths set up a raucous chant of "Eton are wankers". "Well," my dad said gleefully, "that's not something you'd ever hear at Headingley."

During the course of People Like Us, his odyssey through the world of the upper classes, Charles Jennings also visits the Eton vs Harrow match, directed there by Lady Celestria Noel's Harpers & Queen Book of the Season. Queen Charlotte's Ball, among other events.

my own. The match proves to be that incontro-

any years ago, I lived just around the corner from Lord's Cricket Ground. One Harry Pearson ticks off a toff-baiter

People Like Us: a season among the upper classes by Charles Jennings, Little, Brown, £15.99

and "hooliganism" is whether the perpetrator pronounces his aitches or not. For Jennings, the afternoon culminates not in songs about onanism, but when his friend answers an uppercrust old coot's inquiry about the identity of the umpire with: "He's got a white coat on, and he's got a face as brown as a tinker's nut bag."

The match is the high point of People Like Us. Which is a pity, not only because it comes only a third of the way through this slim book, but Ascot, Henley, the Burghley Horse Trials and funny. The book begins brightly with Jennings neatly identifying the peculiar inverted snobbery Jennings's experience at Lord's is similar to of the English, to whom "Posh people ... start where I leave off". (Jennings indulges in quite vertibly blue-blooded mixture of impeccable a bit of this social self-deprecation himself, telling

or Cambridge graduate who got in on merit?) There are some entertaining tales extracted from the diaries of James Lees-Milne. And a bizarre conversation with an upper-class woman about the bourgeois clanger of saying "some coffee" rather than "a cup of coffee" leads to a pinsharp dissection of the high-class habit of dropping out in a way which only serves to further emphasise your privilege. It concludes with a deft filleting of Tony Benn: "If he d really wanted to leave Viscount Stansgate behind, he'd have run a newsagents or found a position designing bituminised garages, instead of doing the obvious and becoming daffy officer material in the vanguard give up the perks of high birth when they die."

There is a funny story, too, from a prep school master (who tells Jennings that the little boys' sports jackets were made of such stout tweed that they stood up on their own) and a manners and yobbishness which lends weight to the view that the difference between "horseplay" us, among other things, how he "tricked" his way stream of accurate and amusing observations. Next time he should really take his life in horseplay into Oxford. But did you ever meet an Oxford about upper-class voices during a day at Ascot. hands and write about something he likes.

After the trip to Lord's, however, the whole thing rather fizzles out. Jennings maintains an impressive level of outrage (despite a vague feeling of envy that begins to overtake him at a Sloane Ranger's birthday party) but the social events soon begin to blur into one another. The toffs, almost uniformly vacuous and repellent, work hard to confirm Henry Miller's assertion that only the great resemble one another.

The problem. I think, lies with Jennings's choice of subject. Ridicule, however wellaimed, can only carry a writer so far. In his first book, *Up North*, Jennings travelled beyond the Watford Gap and was rude about what he found. In People Like Us he takes a similar approach to the aristocracy. The result is not broad enough to sustain an entire book.

no nasty first about northerners now the upper classes, the author may think he is living dangerously. But in England - particularly educated, middle-class England - contempt is always the safest opinion to express. Jennings is a sharp-eyed and witty writer. Next time he should really take his life in his

Paperbacks



By Christopher Hirst, Emma Hagestadt and Paul Binding

The Gunpowder Plot by Antonia Fraser (Weidenfeld, £12.99) The atrocity planned for 6 November 1605 remains the most famous terrorist episode in British history. This compelling account explores both the religious persecution which prompted these "brave, misguided" Catholics and the complex detail of their doomed plan. Not only were they betrayed from the outset, but their gunpowder was so decayed that it would never have exploded anyway. Narrative history at its best, this dark tale becomes painful as the prisoner "John Johnson" is tortured into revealing himself as Guido Fawkes.

Resident Alien by Quentin Crisp (Flamingo, £7.99) The diaries of Britain's great export to the Big Apple are studded with one-liners: Los Angeles is New York lying down"; "I have always held the opinion that it would be less depressing to be alcoholic than to be anonymous". Astute and gutsy, Crisp possesses phenomenal energy for his age, but, unfortunately for his readers, travels in order to be seen rather than to see. His quaint, mannered style becomes a trifle wearing. particularly his affectation of giving everyone titles, as in "Mr Milton" (John), "Mr Claus" (Santa) and "Mr Hur" (Ben).

In Search of Dracula by Raymond McNally & Radu Florescu (Robson, £9.99) This rum but scholarly study is the latest in a long line of flesh-creepers (the

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Ch The sick the the

first appeared in 1499) devoted to the grisly doings of old toothy. Despite Ceausescu's attempt to rehabilitate Dracula, he emerges as a disagreeable fellow whose speciality was not putting the bite on people but doing nasty things with a sharp pole. His addiction to impalement continued even when imprisoned, substituting mice for humans. The authors, who discovered Castle Dracula in 1969, bring the story up to date with a 40-page filmography.

The Evil That Men Do by Brian Masters (Black Swan, £7.99) This kaleidoscopic view of good and evil is sub-titled "From Saints to Serial Killers", but the latter (not always serial in nature) outweigh the former in a proportion of about 12:1. Perhaps goodness is by its very nature hard to write about - Masters is reduced to showbiz "saints" like Audrey Hepburn and Bob Geldof. His cool analysis of evil is inevitably jarred by the horrific examples, from Jeffrey Dahmer to Dachau. Goodness, he concludes, depends on "constant alertness". An intelligent, readable but depressing book.

Perfectly Correct by Philippa Gregory (HarperCollins, £5.99) Successful academic, Dr Louise Chase, has a neat country cottage, a neat bob and a commitment-free relationship with her best friend's husband. A tidy life, except for her inexplicable passion for a local farmer with periwinkle-blue eyes and no interest in gender studies. Gregory has tried her hand at

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contemporary satire before, and this gently romantic, naughty read shows her story-telling skills travel well. For women who invest in silk pyjamas, but know deep down they shouldn't bother.

Exquisite Corpse by Poppy Z Brite (Phoenix, £5.99) Eating people is wrong, but young American "punk-slash" writer, Poppy Z Brite, almost makes it OK. When English serial killer Andrew Compton arrives in New Orieans, the last thing he expects is to fall in love, especially with a fellow psycho-killer. But having something in common always helps, and soon he and Jay are cruising the French Quarter and dining in on a foul-smelling jambalaya. Even if this spooky Anne Rice/Clive Barkerish tale isn't your usual cup of tea, Brite's book is sickeningly compelling.

Photocopies by John Berger (Bloomsbury, £6.99) This collection of essays describing "moments" spent with late twentieth-century Europeans by one time Booker Prize winner,

John Berger, reads like an Inter-Railer's wet dream. His "Euroencounters" include standing under a plum tree with a beautiful young fresco-restorer from Galicia; chewing the cud with assorted peasants; and talking Paul Klee with just about anyone who will listen. At times Berger's writing is so affected it's hard not to laugh - though when it comes to describing the blue of the Aegean, or the yellow of a French post van, he's a hard man to resist.

The Professor's House by Willa Cather (Virago, £6.99) Cather's masterpiece tells the story of a retiring academic who has fallen out of love with life, exhausted by his riven family and depressed by the materialism of 1920s America. And it has inset in it - like a glowing jewel - an account of his dearest student's numinous experience in a New Mexico pueblo. Virago have also re-issued the First World War novel One of Ours and the lyrical My Antonia (£6.99) to mark the 50th anniversary of Cather's death, with Hermione Lee's model biography A Life Saved Up (£8.99).

Audiobooks



Dirk Maggs's latest
"audiomovie" An American Werewolf in London (BBC, 2hrs, £8.99) is, like all his "surround sound" masterpieces, best heard on headphones. Ghastly gurgles from the werewolf's victims are perhaps a little too prolific, but there are plenty of chuckleworthy

moments in this retelling of the 1981 jokey horror classic. The original cast (Jenny Agutter, Brian Glover, John Woodvine) do their terrified thing superbly. Spoonface Steinberg (BBC,

1hr, £5.99) uses Maria Callas's arias to punctuate the story of how opera helps a brilliant but autistic seven-year-old come to terms with the fact she has terminal cancer. I know, I know, it does sound a bit over the top on slush factor, but ten-vear-old Becky Simpson reads with a straightforward simplicity that makes Lee Hall's dramatic monologue quite unforgettable.

Christina Hardyment



The totem of Taboo

Chris Savage King on an Eighties icon

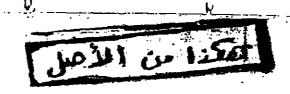
I f London really is a centre of culture again, it's largely due to applied art-school intelligence. Leigh Bowery was one of the brightest blooms on this circuit in the 1980s. Sue Tilley's memoir of him, Leigh Bowery: portrait of an icon (Hodder, £9.99), is honest and affectionate. A consummate objet d'art, Bowery got on best with people with whom he could show off intellectually. He is best remembered for his outrageous fashion designs, but was also a sitter for Lucian Freud, a performance artist, a keen shoplifter, and an

The Eighties were a time of naked ambition and hardcore hedonism. The door policy of Bowery's club -Taboo - was unequivocal; "Dress as if your life depends on it, or don't bother". Yet if you ever managed to get in, it was surprisingly friendly.

Bowery was a trouper. When he was diagnosed HTV-positive in 1988. he kept it secret for a long while. He wasn't interested in becoming a professional victim. We'll never know what Bowery would have made of the 1990s. The get-out-of-my-wayor-l'll-kill-you ethos that he embodied with such aplomb is no longer popular. The Me generation has been replaced by "me too" and the current rave-style of clubbing - in which you leave your ego at the door - would not have suited him at all.

Still, his legacy lingers in those he inspired, and in a few convictions he shared with them: "Be brave, do what you want, and don't be afraid of failure - never give up". This is a charming and raffish book, a fitting tribute to someone who lived fast, died young and stayed pretty. He packed more into his time than many manage in a much longer life.

Left: Lucian Freud's 1993



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Milly Molly Mandy hits third base (and other tales of feminist confusion)

Janie Lawrence talks to Naomi Wolf

aomi Wolf, the American babe of contemporary feminism, is shaking her head in disbelief. I've just asked how many men she's slept with. "That seems to me to be a weirdly male identified question," she shoots back with contempt. It's nothing of the sort. Her knee jerk response seems to me to be weirdly coy. Not to mention irritatingly patronising with its "she's a victim of the patriarchy" inference. We are, after all, not here to discuss her 10 1/2 Winning Ways with a Vol-Au-Vent.

Rather 34-year-old Naomi is Britain to promote her latest book, Promiscuties, a largely autobiographical tome in which she asks that her past sexual behaviour be accepted as 'normative" and women be recognised as creatures with sexual appetites as large and frequently larger than men's. Three cheers for the latter, I say. But if promiscuous is, as she argues, a pejorative term only applied by heterosexual men about gay men and women. then isn't classifying herself - and so many of us - as such, somewhat strange? Given that she has, I, for one, would like her to define her terms. So,

"It's 30," she replies. "But I don't think it's that interesting. The book isn't about counting, it's about consciousness. The most interesting and relevant material was about my own sexual coming of age and what I was thinking about. I took it as given that we were all sleeping around a lot. The truth of what we went through isn't in the numbers."

Surely that's precisely the truth of our pre-Aids thirty-something generation. But if you're looking for consistent argument then Wolf is not the woman for you. As the author of The Beauty Myth she attacked the ad industry's cynical and exploitative use of women's bodies. Yet what does the cover of Promiscuities depict? Whoops yes, you've guessed it - a skinny, naked and headless female torso. How can she justify resorting to the same image she's so publicly reviled in order to flog her new book? "You'd have to talk to my publishers about the choices they made," she says awkwardly. Ah, so we're talking commercial expediency? She side-steps the question. "I like the idea of an erotic, powerful nude on the cover but I would have liked this image to be fatter and have a head," she concedes. So? "They persuaded me that women saw it in the context of a right-on pro-sex book." Yeah right. Between the

covers the book purports to deal with the systematic way in which women's sexuality has been repressed. Pascinating historical facts are interwoven with her own much less fascinating sexual exploits. The result

less Naomi the feminist, more Milly Molly Mandy - makes third base: Naomi goes to Zionist camp at 13, Naomi goes on kibbutz and does everything but "it" with an Irish volunteer and finally the Happy Ending - Naomi buys a wedding dress. Along the way we also hear about Milly Molly Mandy's wealthy friends, Tanya, Shari and Sandi. As an account it's entertaining enough, but illuminating? I fear not. Does she truly believe that such a personal testimony can make a worthhile contribution to current feminist

"No one suggests to men that personal experience is not a legitimate source of material," she retorts. "Men grow up, especially white men, with a sense that their experience is valuable. For a woman to say that it isn't means she has absorbed the idea that women's lives are not so innately important. It is such a manifestation of externalised selfhatred. One of the reasons I wanted to write it was historical. I wanted to own and name that time and everything that was good about it. To be able to say, Hey, I had one-night stands, I learned from that - I touched him'.

"Feminism to me is that every woman's life counts - including mine. If it were that easy to do then more women would have told the truth about their own sexual history which I think is f**kin' brave. The more we do that the less easy it is for the culture to say we f**ked around, she's a slut."

Being a slut is the main thread of the book. She calls for us to "redeem the slut" in ourselves and "to reframe ... the simultaneously very good and very bad girls that we, growing up, knew we were. Why does she use the word slut? "What do you mean?" she asks

"I use it the way gay people use the word queer," she explains adopting her be patient, this woman needs guidance voice. "I'm talking about how girls get turned into sluts. When you try to own your own sexuality you get called this disgusting epithet. Girls get labelled sluts when they're pursuing their natural desire."

Yes I understand. But drawing attention to the belittling of female desire is not revolutionary feminist thought. Might it not be more productive to reject the word "slut" alto-gether and go further? Apportion some of the blame where it belongs? With women? There's collusion on a grand scale. We forever tell so-called revelatory magazine sex surveys that we've only slept with three men, don't care about orgasms and can barely pronounce the word masturbation. Can men therefore be entirely to blame for retaining such a mistaken impression. of our physical needs and desires when women persistently lie? "I have a lot of compassion for that because the culture informs us that if we want too much and our appetites get too strong there are going to be real penalties. Ranging from freaking out our partners to losing a criminal case to losing our children.

Hey, I had one night stands. I learned from that. I touched him 7

There are those who ask quite why Ms Wolf has attained the prominence she has. Partly it has to be because she's emerged as the sunny, shiny face of feminism. Wheel in Naomi and, unlike Andrea Dworkin; you won't frighten the horses. Or, more specifically, young women who so loathe the f-word feminism has to be prettified. That Naomi is pretty - extremely, if truth be told has her declaring that "you're either too ugly or pretty to be heard". A fair point but it's disingenuous to pretend that if she were the former so many would have listened so intently.



care facilities; the woeful female parliamentary representation or even her current bete noir, the marginalisation and misrepresentation of female sexuality, indeed her definition of feminism is so all-embracing that you'd have no trouble persuading the average London cab-bie to sign up. "It's the logical extension of democracy. Everyone counts equally with everyone else, everyone has infinite potential and that potential shouldn't be blocked," she rattles off.

Li can get to pleasure, but We're once again in the land of poor little "me fem-I can't always get to the place it comes from 7

And so what that it's all been said before - that doesn't invalidate those statements. Reservations exist over the arguments she subsequently employs. Chutzpah and reasoned debate are not one and the same. Perhaps that's why the defence of her material often appears to be infinitely more credible than the material itself. Rather like the . comic whose anti-heckling skills are first rate but the act itself never delivers. Yet Wolf maintains that only in Britain is she so consistently hammered and rounded upon by leading feminist writers branding her "derivative".

"There are only so many ways to oppress women," she counters. "I've quite assiduously tipped my hat at the first and second wave feminists who've written about these issues. There's no question that the books I've written have been original. I'm pretty used to taking the heat for saying things that are a little ahead of the curve of popular opinion especially within some

feminist groups."

That sounds like she's citing the politics of feminist envy. Whereas women with no axe to grind are, in fact, questioning the intellectual rigour of what she's offering. This is a sore point "What I write is accessible because I do very deliberately write for anyone whether they have a higher education or not - that's a political decision I've made. It was a painful one because I come from an academic background." This unfortunately doesn't excuse the

of it. Then there's her naïve description where contrary to what she imagined choosing her wedding dress was a matter of concern. "I'm a feminist, I'm not supposed to be interested in things like that," she shrugs. As for the dress itself? She says in the book: "I wanted it to say that we would keep travelling, that desire would still drive me out of doors." For a woman who argued in her sec-

ond book, Fire With Lire, that feminists mustn't be victims, Promiscuities signals a volte face. inism". While exhorting us to own our sexuality she

argues that the more dodgy

fantasies, namely rape and restraint, aren't really female fantasies at all. "I think they come from the culture telling us our passions are too overwhelming. Therefore we mentally put the bondage on so we can express the appropriate amount of passion," she explains. Ah, so if these fantasies are embarrassingly primi-tive and ideologically unsound, let's blame men? "I'm not going to judge any woman's sexuality but I would say

go to the heart of where they come

from," she argues. But where does she come from? By turn delightfully warm and infuriatingly prickly, she's a curious mixture of the militant and highly conventional. She says she remains vehemently prochoice despite what she claims were the gross misrepresentations of her views on abortion in the British press a year ago. Then as now she declares that an abortion should be a matter of a woman's conscience. "This is a nuanced argument so I'm going to ask

you to follow it closely. I predicted a year and a half ago that if we didn't reframe our rhetoric in the US we were jeopardising abortion rights and my prediction has come true. What I'm seeing now is more and more women in politics are beginning to adopt the language that I advocated and they're doing a much better job of defending abortion rights as a consequence." For many that's not the primary issue. Much more worrying to other prochoicers is the introduction of another dimension - what appears to be her unfathomable psychobabble of *Promis*-dangerous hierarchical grading of cuities. Gems like. "I can always get to abortion. "There's a difference the pleasure but I can't always get to between an abortion that a guy brings

for an 18-year-old teenager stuck with

the same consequences it's not, sister. Politically there are also strong words. She's not simply left of centre but believes in "collapsing the class sys-

Ms Wolf: pretty but puzzling PHOTOGRAPH:

PHILIP MEECH

▲ My real life is being a marm, which means I am at the absolute bottom of the social heap 7

tem so there aren't inequities between rich and poor".

If old feminist mantra dictated the personal was political it cuts no ice with Wolf. Brought up in San Francisco she's now married to Clinton's speechwriter, also Jewish, and lives in Maryland with their two-year-old daughter, Rose. Strangely she will not be drawn into volunteering the most innocuous personal details about her husband. Ask her why she wears a wedding ring and she replies with a classic non sequitur, "Do you believe in gay marriage?" However, she admits that her decision to marry was "complicated". "I think there's no question that heterosexual marriage as an institution is corrupt. But I think we've got to reclaim rituals that have meanings for us and make them mean what we want them to mean. I'm a product of a feminist marriage and an egalitarian contract between a man and a woman that pretty much worked so I know that it's possible for individuals to be fair with each other. If you grow up with the dad changing the diapers, staying up all night with the sick baby, teaching you how to tie your shoelaces then you associate boring domestic labour with men as well as with women."

To the outsider she's the woman who has it all. Career, man, baby. The very notion horrifies her. "Don't even begin to suggest that," she responds immediately. "My experience of marriage - and I'm not talking in personal terms - is that even with two people with the best will in the world every institution tries to undermine it and throw the balance of power to the man."

Just like her husband her daughter is also off limits for discussion. "I don't talk about her," she announces. She's only two so quite what the problem is I can't begin to imagine but there's going to be no usual mumsy stuff about the terrible twos here. Perhaps, then, she has some thoughts about motherhood? She has. It's an outpouring with barely a breath. "It's radicalised me. I've been demoted. My real life is being a marm which means that I'm at the absolute bottom of the social heap. It means being invisible, it means living in a world pushing a stroller and it means a complete lack of recognition for doing the most important job in society." And and slows down. "Apart from that it's Heaven."

No wonder that Ms Wolf is contradictory. It strikes me that she's every bit as confused as the rest of us. Motherhood versus career, sexual vulnerability versus sexual autonomy; the conflicts are endless. I admire her for attempting publicly to make sense of it all.

Unless you're an impressionable 20-year-old I don't believe she's offering any answers.

'Promiscuities' is published by Chatta & Windus,

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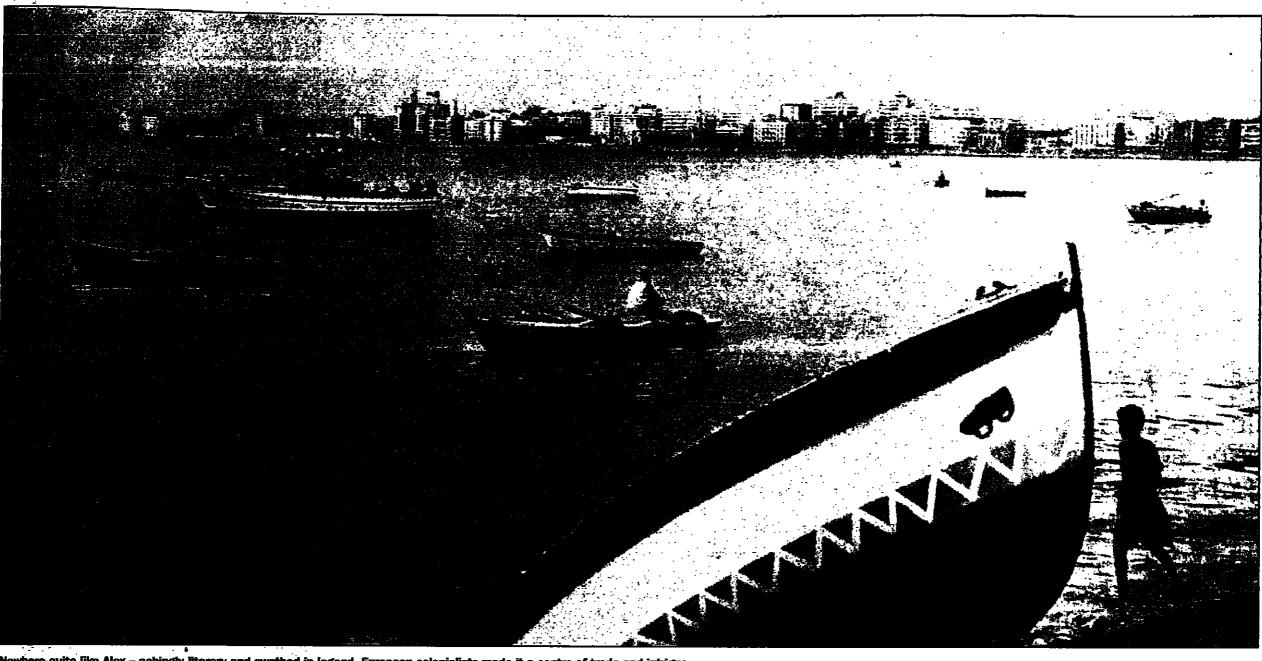
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Walking the Lakes .12/13 San Francisco, city of Vertigo...... A blaze of springtime blossom and bloom17



Between the desert and the deep blue sea

On the edge of the Sahara, where the Nile meets the Med, lies Alexandria, a modern metropolis still in thrall to its literary past, writes Martin Buckley

old English poet who had been marooned by life. He slept by night in the slums around Crawford Market, and wandered by day in the streets around the Museum, with his possessions mostly reams of poems - bundled up in plastic bags. Geoffrey Hann's life as an artist and servant of Empire had taken him by stages from the Levant, to Cambridge, to India. But the place where it had begun seemed to have made his exotic journey almost inevitable. For Geof-

frey had been born in Alexandria. The city is so swathed in legend and so achingly literary that any visit here becomes in part a journey into your own imagination. At first sight there seems to be little that's essentially Alexandrian. Expecting to see remnants of Alexander the Great's capital, you stare at buildings that might be in Athens or Naples - the shoe shops, burger bars and Benettons of a city that longs to be mod-ern. But, for British visitors tempted by the new flights that began from Gatwick this month, the pleasures of Alex are more decadent and perverse - the satisfactions of faded

Himalay

grandeur, nostalgia and decay.

If you want to wallow in literary Alexandria (and can afford it), you'll stay at the Cecil Hotel. You (evoked in The English Patient in all patra's Needles", but to see one of

iaBombay I used to know an_ its colonial glory, but now a multistorey box), in which case the Cecil will restore some of your faith in truth and beauty. They all came to the Cecil - Churchill, Coward, Forster, Durrell, Maugham; here Durrell's fictional heroine Justine made her first big entrance, clad "in a sheath of silver drops". Despite being "modernised" (and renamed the Pullman Cecil), the hotel has retained a discreet charm and a sense of pride in its occidental roots. ("Would you like some milk tea with English cake, sir?" asked a waiter.) It stands at the midpoint of the semicircular Corniche, with views of the blue Mediterranean and bobbing fishing boats, and the butter-coloured Qaytbay Fort.

This 15th-century defence is in effect the stump of that wonder of the world, the Pharos lighthouse, which towered 400 feet over the harbour, lighting the gateway from Greece to Egypt. It was raised in 300BC and levelled by an earthquake around AD1300; they built the fort from the rubble.

Alexandria lies at the northwestern corner of the Nile Delta, caught between desert, verdure and sea. There is plenty of ancient history buried among the 19th-century and Art Deco piles that make up so much of its crumbling may come reeling from the horror fabric. The Corniche once fea-of Shepheard's Hotel in Cairo tured a pair of Pharaonic "Cleofabric. The Corniche once fea-



A town called Alex

British Mediterranean Airways flies three times each week from Gatwick to Alexandria, on behalf of British Airways. The telephone sales team (on 0345 222111) does not appear to be entirely aware of the new flights, so you may have to insist that they check under the airport code, AEX. If you book by Monday, you quality for a World Offer fare of £312.90 return, including tax.

The Egyptian State Tourist Office is at Third Floor, Egyptian House, 170 Piccadilly, London W1V 9DD (0171-493 5282). British citizens require a visa, issued by the Visa Section of the Consulate-General, at 2 Lowndes Street, London SW1X 9ET (0171-235 9777). You need a passport, a photograph and £15.

London's Victoria Embankment. Pompey's Pillar, however, offers some compensation: a column 72ft high, cut from a single chunk of pink granite. Around it lie fragments of Cleopatra's great library, for 400 years the most learned location on earth, and destroyed, it is worth remembering, not by "them" but by "us" - a Christian mob, attacking "paganism".

Looking at the small clutter of cisterns and sphinxes around the Pillar, I found it extraordinary to think that it is all that remains of a vast Ptolemaic acropolis. The site of worship and study is now one of Alexandria's gloomiest slums.

A tout approached me. He was toothless and unshaven, wore a torn anorak, and had a few tourist trinkets draped over him. He had a desperate look, and did not so much ask as order me to follow him. Some distance into the warren of buildings I found my tongue and told him I would not go any further. He silently shrugged, and strode off. And I wandered on through the narrow streets, with their domestic

refuse and dangling clothes-lines. With a little help, I found my way to the catacombs. These subterranean tombs span the whole history of Alexandria, eliding religions and architectural styles into a jumble of mummies, medusas and Egyptian gods dressed as Roman

seafront, I reached the Roman odeon, a neat mini-Colosseum with marble seating and some patches of mosaic flooring. It was once surrounded by a pleasure garden dedicated to the god Pan, and given over to the pursuit of earthly delights - the same delights, no doubt, that drew literary Europeans in the Thirties and Forties.

andria a lift after it had lain dormant for a millennium, making it a centre of trade and intrigue. When they were sent packing by the Egyptian president Nasser after the Suez crisis, the city lost its louche cosmopolitanism. To recapture it today, wander through the decaying streets, and pause at a tea shop to enjoy a hubble-bubble pipe; or you might sit in a mirrored pipe; or you might sit in a mirrored city, |Cavafy's Too - Alexandria?|It is patisserie, with the works of the Greek poet Cavafy propped up time!! should exit where I entered!In

European colonialists gave Alex-

hospital where we die." In fact, as a homosexual, he did not make use of the brothel, preferring to pick up boys in the cafés behind the Cecil. In the bookshops of Alexandria you'll find Durrell, Cavafy, Forster; but you won't find Geoffrey Hann. In Bombay, I used to ask him if he thought he'd ever see Alexandria or England - again. "No," he said. But that didn't stop him dreaming. In one of his last poems, "Nearly Over", he wrote: "I who am rootless as desert air/Could I put down

in the Thirties there was a brothel

on the ground floor. "Where could

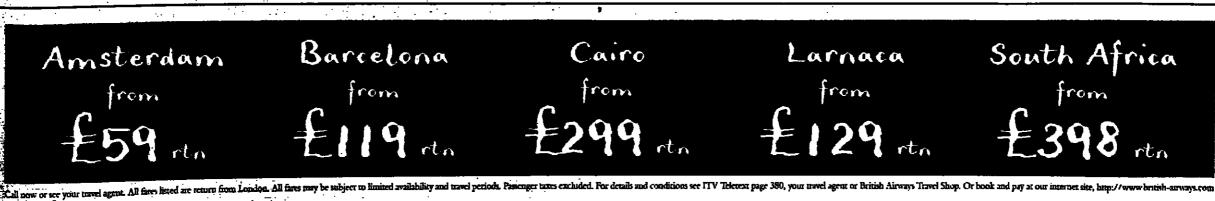
I live better?" Cavafy asked. "Below, the brothel caters for the

flesh. And there is the church

which forgives sin. And there is the

an archaeological root in Cleopatra's Greek poet Cavafy propped up time!! should exit where I entered!In next to your croissant. Cavafy's my case just a closing of the sand."



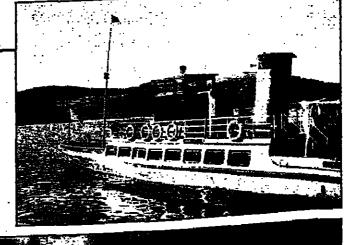


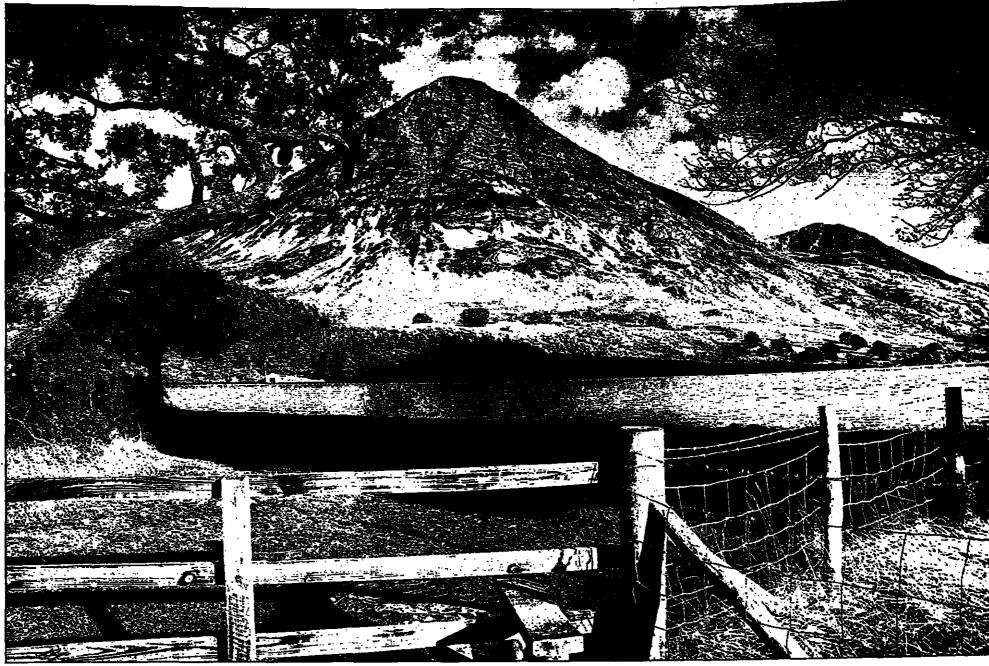
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Poets' corner





Over the years, mountains take on new colours, textures and even contours; lakes change their width, their depth, their shape

. . . . 1

. SAME A

Lake District; billions have, since the passion for visiting this small area first started in 1770. At the back of your mind you can doubtless remember a school trip, a tent near some lake - was it Windermere Lakeland is as dry as it has been these or Loch Lomond? - no, wrong country. but you can clearly remember the rain.

In the wake of

Coleridge,

Wordsworth and

inspiration is easy

Davies divines the

attractions, both

best of Lake District

classic and modern

to find. Hunter

Billions of visitors? Surely some mistake? Well with 15 million visitors a year even they have been cunningly "reserspending at least three hours in Lakeland, it must be more than a billion by now. our recent changes and developments About 150 years ago, when the railways are in towns and villages - though not all. about the possibility of 10,000 of the of golden new arrivals in the past two unwashed from Lancashire getting off the trains in Windermere.

Writing about Lakeland means you have to take account of the fact that so many Brits do know the Lake District, have been many times, love it dearly, and have their own favourite bits which they guard in their minds and don't want exposed in print. But each year there are also several million first-time visitors are my top five - Classic and Modern. who don't know their way around, who ask for the Beatrix Potteries, inquire about boats from Bowness to the Isle of Man or would like a copy of the latest Alake steamer. Every visitor should have Dorothy's Journal.

In theory, mountains and lakes don't change. How can they; it's Nature? But of course they do, all the time. Over the years, mountains have taken on new colours, textures and even contours, thanks to mining, erosion, farming, plantations. Lakes have changed their and is the most popular, with more than width, their depth, their shape, their con- 1 million boat passengers last year, but it

ou've probably been to the tent, thanks to the weather, pollution, fishing, boating and assorted laws and regulations. Haweswater, Thirlmere and Tarn Hows may look lovely, but they are essentially man-made. Underneath Haweswater is a drowned village, and if past three years, it will probably pop out again. Ullswater, Crummock and Ennerdale do look totally natural, but voired" around the edges. The most obviyears, tossing their leaflets in sprightly dance to catch the breeze, or at least our

> New visitors want to know what I shouldn't miss. Old visitors, meanwhile, want to know what's new. Not necessarily to go to see these changes. In fact it may be a useful warning. So, for both these sorts and conditions of visitors, here

Classic Lakeland

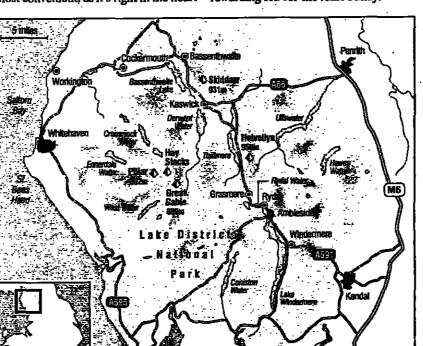
a boat trip, up or down a lake. It's such an easy introduction, a lazy way of getting the feel and the flavour of Lakeland without in fact doing any work. There are four lakes with a regular service. Windermere, being 10 miles long, provides the longest trip, about 90 minutes one way,

can get very busy. Ullswater has equally attractive boats, and is much quieter. The Derwent Water boats are smaller and noisier, and are of more use in getting to various points around the lake than as a pleasure in themselves. The most elegant, artistic boat ride is on Gondola, an 1859 steam yacht, which sails on Coniston.

An easy walk. For those wanting a lowlevel, family stroll, Rydal Water is the

of Lakeland - on the road between Grasmere and Rydal, with good parking. But don't walk on the road itself. The walk is along the other side of the lake. It is a round walk - one way along the shore, returning at a higher level.

An easy climb - so that you feel a bit more pleased with yourself, having gained some height and self-respect. Carbells, overlooking Derwent Water, is the most rewarding fell for the least outlay.



A harder climb. There are three mountains higher than 3,000ft, so you should do them all, as a true laker. Skiddaw is the easiest. As it's just outside Keswick, it's easy to get started here - and it's easy to ascend. Helvellyn is a bit harder, and more dramatic on top. Scafell Pike takes longest, but is the most satisfying. You can then say you've done the ighest peak in England.

A famous house. There are two that should not be missed - both modest, as houses, but fascinating because they are as they were when the famous person ere. In each case, the person is part of Lakeland - and ever will be. Mr Wordsworth's Dove Cottage is in Grasmere - open daily, 9.30am-5pm, adults £4.25, children £2, (015394 35544) and Miss Potter's Hill Top is at Sawrey - Saturday-Wednesday, 11am-4.30pm, adults £3.60, children £1.70 (015394 362690).

Modern Lakeland

The Beacon at Whitehaven - open Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-5.30pm, adults £3.30. senior citizens £2.75, children £2.10, family ticket £9.50 (01946 592 302). This is a brand-new £4.2m tourist attraction, supposedly to tell you all about Whitehaven's history, which it does, but it's full of hi-tech amusements, the sort that kids are supposed to find fun on a wet day. Useful as a focal point for exploring Whitehaven's Georgian streets and magnificent harbour.

The Dock Museum, Barrow - open Wednesday-Sunday, 10am-5pm week-

days, 11am-5pm weekends, free admission (01229 870871). Another multimillion-pound modern creation. Where do they get all the money? The building itself is worth seeing – a giant, three-storey conservatory, created out of a sandstone dock. A snip at £5m.

The Oasis Forest Holiday Village, near Penrith opens next Friday, 2 May. The new holiday complex is fully booked for the first week, but reservations for subsequent weeks are being taken on (1900) 086000. This is heralded as Cumbria's biggest-ever man-made tourist attraction

00 lodges, built at a cost of £100m, which will attract 300,000 visitors a year. What on earth would Wordsworth have thought?

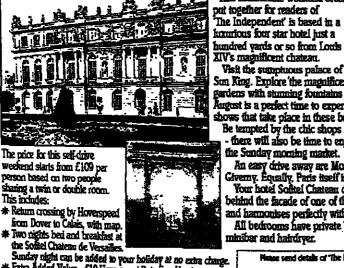
Lakeland Wool and Sheep Centre. Cockermouth - daily shows at 10,30am. 12pm, 2pm and 3.30pm, adults £3, children £1.50 (01900 822 6730). I have seen this, and it's hysterical. Well I burst out laughing when I sat in its 300-seater theatre and watched 19 pedigree sheep walk on stage, find their own dais and name, then pose and pout. Very like a Miss World contest.

Andy Goldsworthy. The well known sculptor has secured £600,000 to reconstruct Sheep Folds, the sort that you see fallen down all over Lakeland. As works of art, of course. A hundred of these will be reappearing between now and the Millennium.

Hunter Davies is the author of 'The Good Guide to the Lakes', published by Forster Davies, price £5.99.

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Summer starts with a Spanish cloud - but Greece is back

hursday, 1 May, sees the dawn of an optimistic era for Britain's air travellers. Nothing to do with the election - Thursday just happens to be the day when the summer charter schedules start. There are some causes for hope that this summer will be better than last.

Airtours International has a May Day plan to eliminate delays that some travellers suffered last year, such as the 52-hour wait my colleague Wendy Berliner experienced in Orlando. Airtours is keeping a plane on standby at Manchester airport from 1 May. The aircraft will be fully crewed, ready to take off if other planes "go technical".

Its big rival, Britannia Airways, says it has operated a back-up plane for the past four years. Britannia has chosen International Workers' Day, 1 May, to ditch its long-established Royal Service in favour of a new, classless (if that is not a contradiction in terms) "360" class. Also on Thursday, AB Airlines opens a new route to Portugal: cheap flights



Simon Calder

These are mere silver linings compared with the forbidding cloud on the horizon: the new airport tax being introduced in Spain. Our most popular package holiday destination has imposed a tax of 150 pesetas on travellers. The amount itselfless than 70 pence - is trivial when compared with our Air Passenger Duty of £5 or £10. But Britain's departure tax is an example of how politicians see travel as an easy target: APD is set to double in November, whoever wins the election.

The new tax is the thin end of a potentially expensive wedge: how long before the government in Madrid sees the opportunity for tapping the 10 million British visitors each year for a bit more cash? The levy is all the more galling because, as older readers will recall, Spain dispensed with its 50 peseta tourist tax soon after the mass market holiday industry began 30 years ago.

According to one travel company, the true level of Spain's departure tax is not 70p, but £5. The tour operator Unijet

has announced it will

henceforth quote prices for seats on its charter flights exclusive of tax. Nigel Jenkins of Unijet says the company has taken this step "in order to create a level playing field with scheduled airlines, who have refused to include taxes in their pricing. From a marketing point of view we've been at a disadvantage." Up to a point, this is fair enough: it is important for

the traveller to compare like with like. Ideally, all fares would be shown inclusive of tax, as they are for almost anything else you buy. But since the two airlines that dominate the flight market to Spain, British Airways and Iberia, choose to advertise fares without tax, it seems reasonable for competing companies to follow suit.

The problem is: how do you define tax? Besides Britain's £5 Air Passenger Duty, Iberia and BA charge only 60p or 70p Spanish tax, respectively. But Unijet adds on a "passenger charge" to make a total of 948 pesetas and rounds the lot up to £5.

Next time I take a Unijet flight, I shall offer to pay for a fiver's worth of drinks with 948 pesetas, adding

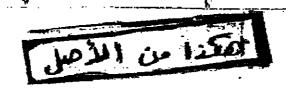
helpfully: "It's roughly £5." At yesterday's spot rate, I make the charges exactly £4. A cynic (see picture, left)

might point out that presented this way. Unijet's fares could look artificially attractive, but Mr Jenkins refutes this suggestion: "Seatonly sales provide the only opportunity we have to show passengers how much of the cost of a flight goes straight to governments in tax."

May is that one of our favourite destinations comes out of hibernation, at least according to a branch of a travel agency chain. This week I conducted one of my regular incognito trawls of travel agents. The mission: to find the hest flight, either chartered or scheduled, to Athens in April. One agent said flatly that I was wasting my time: "Greece doesn't open until May

The other great event on 1





travel & outdoors

A walk on the ·mild side

With bifocals and breathable cagoule in place, Edward Blincoe marched into the mists of the Lakelands

n enthusiastic hiking friend who had just returned from the Lake District told me how wonderful he thought the place. "And I know a great in Borrowdale for less than £2 id-week." I wasn't so foolhardy Derbyshre doctor with a holiday home in Varyable a bitchest poster from Glassow. place. "And I know a great bunkhouse in Borrowdale for less than £2 a night mid-week." I wasn't so foolhardy as to pass on this information at home, but some time later another friend remarked that he thought the Lakes "a dreadful place". I was amazed, "Never eaten such awful food as I did on a weekend in Keswick." My northern pride was stung and my resolve to return to a favourite part of the country stiffened.

We decided on Bassenthwaite, as it was an area neither myself nor my wife knew well. Monday dawned to a forecast of gales, but as we drove up the motorway, the hills of the southern Lakes were bathed in sunlight. Just as we neared Kendal we ran into torrential rain. Desperate to postpone the outdoors, I remembered the Punch Bowl in Crosthwaite being highly recommended. The chef/proprietor had trained at Le Gavroche, and despite it being a wet Monday lunch time, and with no pool table or dartboard in sight, we were lucky to get

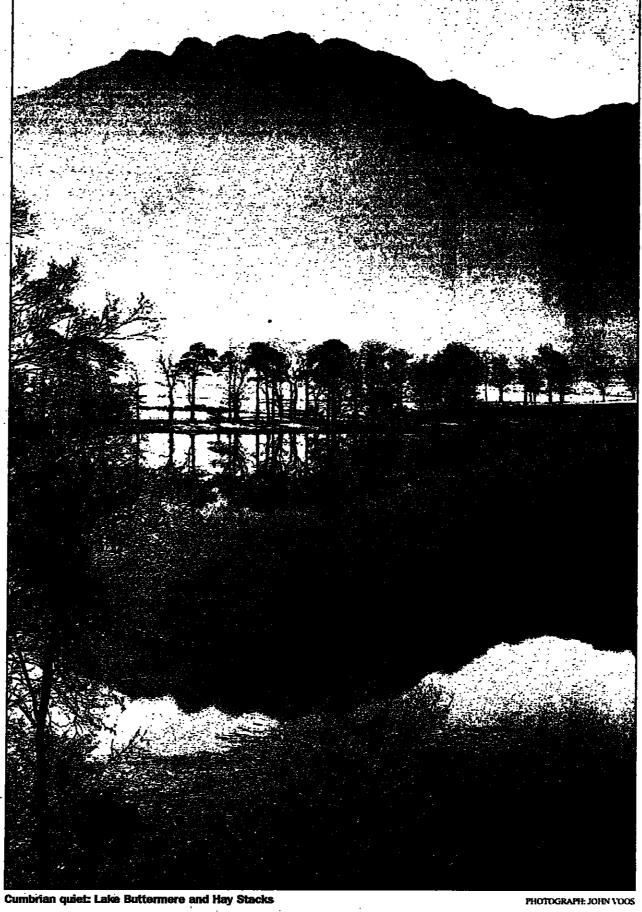
It was a meal to remember, particularly on the way up Hay Stacks the next day. Standing on the top, surrounded by Lakeland's highest hills – Great Gable and Pillar close by; Helvellyn and Skiddaw more distant; breathtaking views over Buttermere and Crummore First eliptics. in the distance, the Solway Firth glinting in the sun - it seemed that this was definitely the finest view in Cumbria ... England ... the world.

Memories of backpacking holidays in glorious weather, when I was happy to eat cold baked beans from a tin and fall drunk into a tent at night, cast their shadow. But a practical reason for no longer doing this is that we are firmly in the bifocal generation, unable to read maps if we leave them off and afraid of falling over if we wear them. We know we are tectering on the edge of the great divide between those. who roam the fells and those four-fifths of visitors who never walk more than 400 yards from their car. Never shall the twain meet except in middle age and hotel lounges, where the outward-bound drone on about the joys of "breathable" cagoules, and the inward-bounders retaliate with tales of crosswinds and contraflows on the M6. Despite a growing

Keswick, a kitchen porter from Glasgow who was youth-hostelling, and a woman from Bolton who nips up whenever there is a walk that she particularly fancies. The rambles are organised and led by a small group of enthusiasts who know and love the Lakes and can tell you all about the flora, geology and history as they lead you round a variety of well-chosen routes. Of course, they are also eccentric and opinionated and have a number of bees in their bonnets - from the National Trust to foxhunting, Alfred Wainwright and mountain bikes. Like your dentist, the guides have you at a disadvantage as they are fit enough to talk fluently striding uphill, while you need all your puff to keep going. On Wednesday we awoke to light rain,

but decided to walk in the immediate area and chose a gentle, circular route from a book of local walks. It proved to be a pleasant path through a quiet valley with views along the length of Bassenthwaite Lake. The rain had cleared and as it was still early we decided to visit Cockermouth. This handsome if slightly run-down town - famous for being Wordsworth's childhood home - was busy with the aftermath of a cattle market. We ate our packed lunches outside Jennings' brewery and debated whether a visit there, which would require leaving in a fit state to drive back to our hotel, was worthwhile. The brewery lost and we visited the Castlegate House Gallery instead: Later we browsed in the largest of Cockermouth's many "antique" shops, examining piles of junk that we would have thrown out had we owned them.

On our drive back to the hotel we decided to spend the evening at the cinema in Keswick. At one time I tended to dismiss this town, preferring more: remote spots, and would call in only to buy sandwiches from Woolworth's. These days there are at least three sandwich bars, making choice of a packed lunch more of an intellectual challenge - but in most other respects it has changed very little. With hindsight I would recommend Keswick for spring breaks. Besides the cinema, there is the theatre running three



plays in repertoire, and lots of B&Bs, pubs

It might be thought that Keswick would be the least likely place to have adopted the Mediterranean habit of the evening passeggiata. But fugitives from cramped B&Bs don their outdoor finery and wander the streets past late-opening shops, deciding on their evening meal and entertainment. Every second shop sells outdoor-pursuits paraphernalia with butch mannequins entangled in ropes and brightly clad in anoraks. The uniform for all but potbellied males, who stick to breeches and jeans, is tight leggings,

revealing well-exercised bottoms. With carry my load. Perhaps they couldn't see folk nights and beards, and friendly pubs me through the mist. Our leader kept our needing no bouncers, there is something

of a Sixties feel about Keswick. On Thursday, our last day, the weather was foul, but my wife insisted that we walk. At the Moot Hall, the guide awaited customers for his hike up Blencathra, wearing a brand-new wet-weather suit that had been rushed round that morning for him to test in bad conditions. Eventually three lads arrived, and two hours later we all neared the summit. I was giving a good impersonation of Brian Blessed staggering up Everest, but no one volunteered to spirits high with tales of folk falling to their

deaths from Sharp Edge, following Wainwright's advice to descend that way. We photographed our triumph from the top, before being blown down the other side. Coleridge was right when he wrote: "On stern Blencathra's perilous height/ The winds are tyrannous and strong.

As we stripped off our sodden clothes in our steamed-up car for the drive home, we agreed that the holiday had been good fun and very satisfying. A bit like sex. really

Lakeland links

13

Cumbria without a car

This summer, the Lake District is more accessible for people without cars than it has been for many years. Virgin Trains has just amalgamated its West Coast and Cross Country divisions, and is promoting a range of cheap fares from England, Wales and Scotland to the region's "gateway" stations of

Carlisle, Penrith and Oxenholme. The best fare is a "Twosome", for two people travelling together. London to Oxenholme costs £60 return for two people; Glasgow to Carlisle is £20. You must book by

2pm the day before travel.

Rail fares from other points vary widely; Cardiff to Carlisle costs £62.70 for a Supersaver; from Oxford to Oxenholme costs a minimum of £31 for an Apex return. Until 30 April, call 0345 484950 for rail information; from 1 May, the Virgin Rail Sales Centre is opening on 0345 222333.

National Express (0990 808080) runs buses to Windermere from various places in Britain. From London there are two Rapide services each day, price £32,50 (£39 for travel on Fridays). From Birmingham there is one direct service, cost £24.50/£29.50 return.

Within the Lake District. Stagecoach Cumberland (01946) 63222) sells the best-value unlimited-travel bus pass in Britain - valid throughout Cumbria, south to Blackpool and Preston, north to Annan in Scotland and across to Newcastle-upon Tyne. A Day Explorer costs £5.20, or £9.99 for a family ticket for two adults plus two children. A four-day pass is £12.99, and must be booked in advance.

The Lakes Daytripper ticket from NorthWest Regional Railways allows travel to Grange-over-Sands or Windermere, plus unlimited bus travel, for £3 more than the normal day return ticket. Sample prices: from Liverpool £15.50, Bolton £12.50, Manchester £12.90.

Windermere Lake Cruises has three piers: Lakeside in the south. Bowness (for Windermere) and Waterhead (for Ambleside). Departures are every hour from 9.05am to 4.55pm. A Freedom of the Lakes ticket, valid for 24 hours, costs £8.75 for adults or £4.40 for children. Details on 015395-31188.

The Ullswater Navigation and Transit Company, which began sailing in 1855, continues to operate Victorian vessels: the Lady of the Lake, built in 1877, and the Raven, younger by 12 years. Call 01539 721626 for times and fares.

The Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway (01229 717171) runs steamhauled trains on the seven-mile, 15in gauge line from the coast to Dalegarth. The journey takes 40 minutes. An Eskdale Explorer (two adults plus two children) costs £14.70 and is valid all day. Thomas the Tank Engine will make an appearance on 18 and 19 October,

Simon Calder

Trouble spots

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Section 1

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How to avoid cultural gaffes around

israel: "It is not uncommon for men to carry handguns, usually tucked discreetly into waist bands and covered with the shirt. This should cause you neither alarm nor trepidation. Remember that almost all adult males in Israel have served in the Army; that Israeli men are often concerned with a 'macho' image, and that Israel does

have very real security difficulties. It would be indiscreet (or inept) to make reference to the gun." - The Simple Guide to Customs and Etiquette in Israel (Global Books, £4.99).

Korea: "Finger to nose gestures are very rude, so it's best to keep your hands away from your face (even if your nose is itchy)" - The Cultural Gaffes Pocketbook, by Angelena Boden (Management Pocketbooks, £6.99).

Japan: "To convey 'no', the word 'difficult' is used" - Ibid.

Eastern Europe: "Eastern Europeans do not want to be patronised: I bet you don't have this back in Moscow' will not go down well. Many are prosperous, have travelled and are rapidly developing their economies;

> Bali: "Babies are not allowed to touch the 'impure' ground until they are six months old according to the Balinese according to our calendar)" - Thomson

Faraway Shores brochure.

don't expect them to accept second

Bargain of the week



he low-cost airline Ryanair is facing a boycott from Britain's travel agents from Thursday, when it reduces the commission paid on flights between Britain and Ireland. This issue has obscured the airline's latest bargain between Scotland and London. With a new £19 one-way fare on the Stansted-Prestwick route, plus special low-cost rail fares, you can travel between any ScotRail station and central London for a total of £55 return: £43 for the flight (including tax). £7 for the Stansted Skylrain and £5 for rail

travel in Scotland. The airline offers 3,000 seats a week at this price. Several points: 1. The ScotRail special deal of £5 return can be obtained on producing your air ticket at Prestwick airport or any staffed ScotRail station, but the Stansted SkyTrain ticket requires a seven-day advance booking. 2. Scottish residents who have no intention of travelling to England can still benefit from the offer; Thurso to Prestwick normally costs a minimum of £49, £1 more than if you use this deal but throw away the plane ticket. 3. If your travel agent won't sell you the ticket, book direct on 0541 569569.

rue or false

You can't smoke your way to America.

False, fortunately for dedicated Smokers.

I want to go to Houston, Texas and I want to smoke," were my instructions to the travel agent. It was no great shock to learn that the only two direct flights from Gatwick were totally nonsmoking. In fact, these days almost all this to the land that gave birth to the tobacco addiction are smoke-free. Often the only option for those who can't go without inhaling is to take a connecting journey and fly to the US from mainland Europe.

The advice I got was to go Air France via Paris. The airline's new "clean air" cabins rule out smoking in seats, but there is a bar at the back for smokers. That sold it. This would obviously be the Party Plane, a Will Self-meets-

Hunter S Thompson Fear and Loathing adventure, wherein everyone drinks Wild Turkey, the six-mile-high club attains many new inductees, and the whole happy clan disembarks with nicotine tans to continue the fun.

Well it wasn't quite like that. In economy class there's a smoker's corner, but, presumably for fear of revellers standing and drinking until they fall over, there's no alcohol allowed in the area. The dry bars have a capacity limit (on my flight it was six) and on one leg, thanks to some emphysema seekers experimenting with Red Kamel cigarettes (tar content 17mg), there were queues. The business and first-class areas do, however, have wet bars for both smokers and non-

The clean air cabins, available on all but a few flights to the Americas, are a considerable investment for Air France. Their press office, however, was a little on the guarded side, initially suggesting

that I used patches, gum or other unfulfilling alternatives before explaining bow they have installed powerful extractors and odour-killers to ensure that both smokers and nonsmokers are accommodated in peace. "Non-smoking does not mean antismoking" is the way they put it.

The flight was a success. Well-timed connections and a shorter check-in time at Heathrow meant that the trip took just a couple of hours longer than direct flight. The bargain £253 fare was some £50 cheaper than the flights from

According to the FOREST lobby group, matters could get better, due to plans to deregulate flights whereby European airlines can pick up passengers in London en route for the States. Until then it's Air France (0181-742 6600) for a forthcoming trip to Chicago: my kind of airline.

Tim Perry

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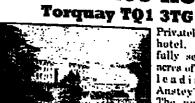
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Celluloid city

travel & outdoors

Screen gem: San Francisco, hero of Hitchcock's re-released 'Vertigo'. Muthena Paul Alkazraji checks out the town-turned-movie star

Hotel, the lead singer of US hardcore band the Foo Fighters sprang over the bamboo footboard and through the plate-glass window. Perhaps due to the window's sheer effrontery in spoiling the record leap, the band then trashed the rest of the room. The staff at the Phoenix, however, are used to dealing with the excesses of music business characters. This oasis in the otherwise sleazy Tenderloin district is a regular check-in for touring rock bands and their road crews. If your travel budget/record label will cover the damage, you are more than welcome to turn up here and swing your Stratocaster around in a Pete Townshend-like manner.

The hotel's guest list reads like a duplicate of invitees to a Q Music Awards ceremony. As well as luminaries from US rock's hall of fame, it has also hosted many a visiting Brit. Tears for Fears, Radiohead and Blur have all stayed here, and a faded UB40 tour-sticker still clings stubbornly to the chambermaid's cleaning trolley. To their credit, hotel employees have a reputation for showing neither star-struck obsequiousness to rock deities
-not so easy when David Bowie is in your toyer - nor disdain for lesser travelling mortals.

A salmon-pink colour scheme, piped bird and cricket song, and tropical plants give the Phoenix a kitschy-fun character. The hotel's kidney-shaped swimming pool, with its swirling 1969 artwork on the bottom, circumvented a local pool bylaw (no swirling designs on pool-bottoms) by obtaining California landmark status. Inside, the hotel's Voodoo Bar and Lounge - named, so I was told, to ward off the legal curse of the Rolling Stones management - the décor includes zebraskin wallpaper, bone-draped lighting and bongo-drum bar stools. Miss Pearl's Jam House, the hotel's restaurant, offers Caribbean cuisine. I plumped for "plantain encrusted thresher shark", but my enjoyment was tempered by concern about having endangered the species.

A further facility for the use of guests at the Phoenix, a simple but inspired touch in this favourite city of moviemakers, is its choice of videos shot on

UK Travel

n a burst of exuberant bed-bounc- location in San Francisco. Reclining on Looking down the streets today, you ing at San Francisco's Phoenix the bamboo bed in my room, I called up my selections from reception on the inhouse cable channel, and set off later to soak up some movie-location ambience. I particularly wanted to walk through scenes in Hitchcock's dark classic, Vertigo.

re-released in Britain this week. From the top of Russian Hill, the streets of San Francisco plummet in steplike descent beneath intersecting electrified trolleybus-cables, and down towards the bay and Alcatraz Island. Gradients of up to 31.5 per cent wear away the brakelinings of city taxis on average every 2,000 miles. This is quintessential car-chase territory. It was through these streets that Steve McQueen screeched in a Ford Mustang GT, pursuing the hitmen who had assassinated a trial witness under his protection, in the 1968 thriller, Bullitt. Hand-held cameras caught the fendercrunching action from the passenger seat.

SAN FRANCISCO: TAKE 1

Three airlines fly non-stop from London Heathrow to San Francisco: British Airways (0345 222111), United Airlines (0181-990 9960) and Virgin Atlantic (01293 747747). The lowest fares are available through discount agents rather than direct with the airline. For example, Quest Worldwide (0181-546 6000) quotes £325 including tax on Virgin Atlantic, if you return before 21 June.

The Phoenix Hotel is at 601 Eddy Street, San Francisco, CA 94109 (tél 001 415 776 1380, fax 001 415 885 3109). Rooms start at \$89 per night for a double, and include continental breakfast.

-The San Francisco Movie Map rives a short resume and the locations of more than 100 films made in the area. These include classics such as The Maltese Falcon and Ditty Harry movies, as well as more recent productions such as Interview with the Vampire and The Rock. Copies from The Reel Map Co, 5214 F Diamond Heights, Suite 425, San Francisco, CA 94131.

cannot help but secretly hope to witness some first-hand automotive drama. You hear tyres squeal, you prepare to dive into the trash-cans, but it's just some old brown Buick slipping on the gradient. Across town at the cemetery of Mission

Dolores, a whitewashed chapel on the beautiful palm-lined boulevard of Dolores Street, a scene from Vertigo, the film that cast San Francisco's magnificent vistas in a starring role alongside James Stewart and Kim Novak, was played out. It was here that the acrophobic Scottie (Stewart) secretly followed the bogus Madeleine (Novak) to the site of Carlotta Valdez's grave. Following in their footsteps through the quiet chapel, San Francisco's oldest building, I scoured the graveyard for Carlotta's resting-place, but this detail turned out to be fictional. Her headstone apparently remained in the garden as a tourist attraction for some years after filming, but, with visitors passing the real tombstones to get to a film prop, the bishop decided that it had to go.

Still shadowing Madeleine, the millionaire shipping-magnate's wife, in his De Soto, Scottie later drove down to the one location which, above all others, is the city's defining symbol. I continued to shadow them both. Arching between the San Francisco peninsula and Marin County, the Golden Gate Bridge carries more than 100,000 vehicles a day across its two-mile span. Relatively few visitors. however, descend from the view-point at the Toll Plaza down to sea level at Fort Point, an old US Army fortress which squats directly below the rumbling roadway. It was here, set against the spectacular backdrop of the two towering 746ft steel suspension towers, that Madeleine faked her suicide attempt by falling into the freezing waters of San Francisco Bay. Here Scottle dived in to rescue her, and here my search for authentic movie ambience found a sensible cut-off point.

Back at the Phoenix, I checked the kidney-shaped pool for rock stars. There was neither living legend splashing about, nor the dead, floating variety. Just one young man, with handsome sideburns, dark sunglasses and a Britpop-ish lope, looked as if he must fit somewhere in the rockschema - but I didn't know who he was.

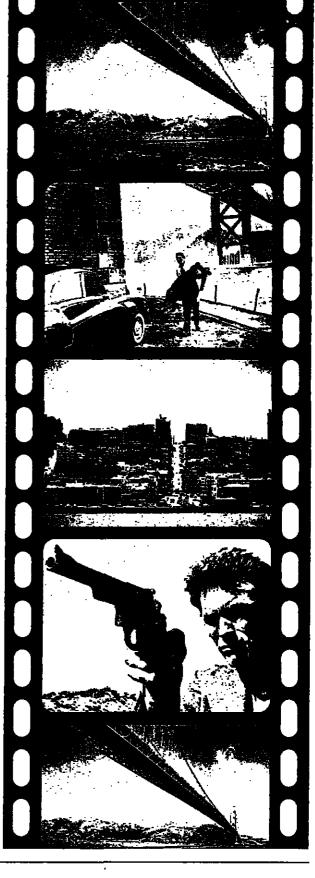
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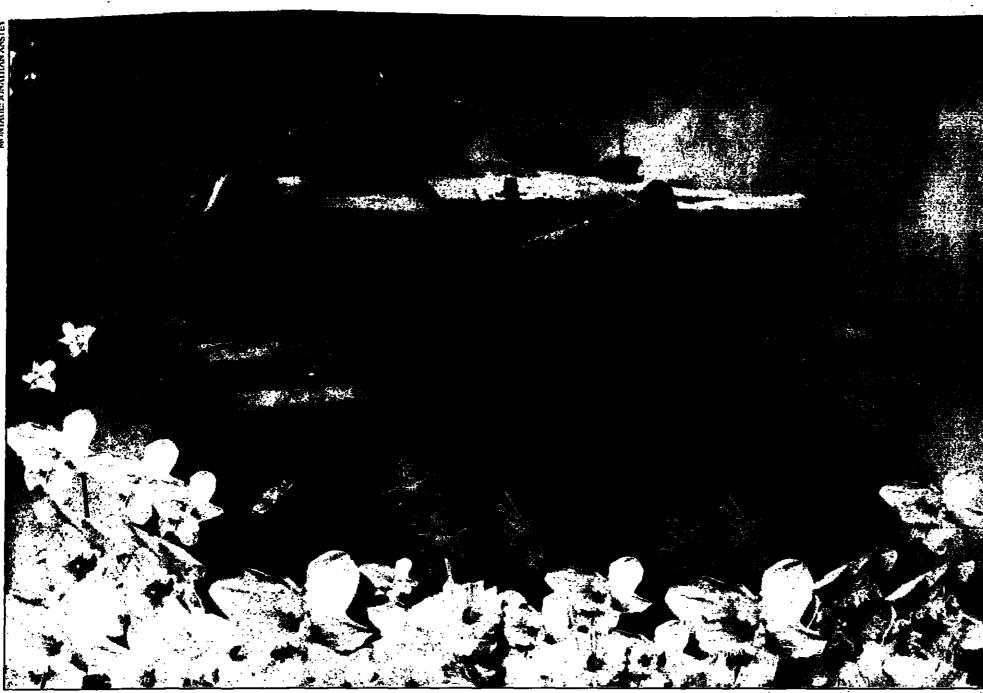
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Tanks for the wildlife

Country: Nicholas Schoon on plans to develop Army land in national parks

of Dartmoor National Park, or the heart of Northumberland National Park, and you see lots of red ink, warning of danger areas. Go to either of these places, and what do you find amid the wild, bleak scenery? Big signs warning people to keep away when the Army is firing, red flags fluttering; barriers across the sounds of the wind in the heather, lark song and rushing water.

Then look at your map again, and reflect that this indispensable guide for Britain's walkers and nature lovers had military origins. The Ordnance Survey was carried out to help gunners shell accurately in every bit of Britain.

The Ministry of Defence owns or is licensed to use land in nine of the 11 National Parks in England and Wales. Hardest hit are Northumberland (22 per cent of its area is MoD controlled). Dartmoor (15 per cent) and the Pembrokeshire Coast in southwest Wales (5 per cent). For much of the time the public have to keep out or risk prosecution – and their lives.

Yet these parks are designated as our most precious terrain, and Acts of Parliament say their natural beauty should be preserved to promote publie enjoyment. What on earth is the military doing here?

It's a question ramblers and environmentalists have been asking since the parks were founded half a century ago. It was raised again this week, with

Otterburn training area, straddling the middle of Northumberland National Park. It is the least visited and most remote of the parks: 400 square miles of moor and low mountain, just south of the Scottish border.

The inquiry will last as long as six months and cost the taxpayer more than £2.5m. The artillery wants to use roads. Gunfire often smothers the Otterburn to train with its Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and alled roads through the training area. Army, but grazing is limited. and build new gun emplacements. New huts would be built to house extra soldiers in its Otterburn camp, plus a concrete vehicle park the size of a couple of football pitches - to be screened by trees. Three more miles of track would be built on the hillsides.

The military is not the only culprit in such developments. A nuclear power station, now defunct, was built at Trawsfynydd in Snowdonia. In the mid-Eighties five miles of dual carriageway was pushed through Dartmoor National Park, allowing the busy A30 to bypass Okehampton.

But whereas it is extremely unlikely that these kind of developments would be allowed today, the military pressure on the parks seems likely to continue. The army would like an extra 39,000 hectares of training area in Britain the equivalent of another Salisbury training to Otterburn so as to make the the opening of a public inquiry into the Plain - following the ending of the maximum possible use of Salisbury imposed upon it.

ook at an OS map of the north Army's plans for developing its big Cold War, which enabled the Army to Plain for tank training. It is one of few withdraw most of its armour and soldiers from Germany.

The Army argues that its very presence helps conserve the landscape and wildlife of the parks. Apart from the shell holes, red flags and warning signs, Otterburn is the least spoilt, most natural part of the Northumberland National Park.

Conifer plantations, decried by a generation of hill walkers, are not its Artillery System 90 big gun. These much in evidence. Overgrazing by heavy, tracked vehicles would sink into sheep and cattle has been kept in the soft, peaty soil. So the plan is to check; there are 31 sheep and cattle widen nearly 30 miles of narrow, met-farms in Otterburn rented from the

> Training grounds such as Otterburn provide a haven for endangered wildlife - both inside and beyond the National Parks - because intensive agriculture has not been allowed to harm them. Salisbury Plain is Britain's largest remaining fragment of the rolling chalk downlands that once covered much of southern England. Most of this habitat has been ploughed for crops or "improved" with fertiliser wiping out many wild flowers.

> The stone curlew, a wading bird that has adapted to live on dry land, survives on the plain. So does the hobby, a magnificent bird of prey, four nationally scarce butterflies, and other rarities. If the army were to leave, the plain would qualify for instant designation

> as a National Park. The Army wants to move AS90

areas where the ground is hard enough for them to roam freely. As for the MLRS, Otterburn is the only UK training area where this fearsome weapon can launch its salvo without having to close a major public road. Even its practice rocket, which does not fly as far as the real thing, requires 11 miles long and two miles wide. That is not available on Salisbury Plain.

The key issues for the public inquir are whether the disturbance that this means for Northumberland National Park can be justified. Government policy is that there should be no major construction in the parks unless there are exceptional circumstances, and it Army's spokesman on this issue also is in the national interest.

The Army argues yes on both counts. Its main opponents, the Northumberland National Park Authority, the county council and a coalition of conservation groups, will try to demonstrate that the military has failed to consider other ways of training with this new artillery. Could it use computer simulation instead? Train over- thinly populated areas. It will seek to seas? Use other areas, or buy some new land altogether? No, no, no and it already controls, and perhaps add on no, says the Army.

Eventually the Government-appointed inspector will write his report, then the Secretary of State for the Environment will make a decision some time in 1998 or 1999. The best guess is that the Army will get the goahead, with a few further restrictions

The inquiry follows three years of negotiations during which the National Park Authority agreed that there was a case for developing the training area in principle - an important breakthrough for the Army. Yet even after the military made further concessions to reduce the development, and the disturbance training causes to walkers a completely unpopulated safety zone and wildlife, the authority still refused planning permission last year, precipitating the inquiry. Maybe it should have offered a little bit more. Perhaps the Army's mistake was its somewhat aggressive public relations; many locals warmly approve of its presence

because of its importance to the local ferrous sulphate kills it." economy. It did not help that the Ferrous sulphate? We

suggested the Authority's chief officer, Graham Taylor, was a Quaker pacifist who might be opposed to the military presence in principle. Whatever the outcome, the tensions in Northumberland and other national parks will continue. The army will never get the funds to buy or rent large with the addition of new chunks of training land in other

make the best possible use of the land a few bits around the edges. What it ammonia, which needs is plenty of tact, and a willingproduces nitrogen. ness to allow maximum possible public access to its training grounds - brilliant public relations, in short. The thunder of gunfire will rumble on in the hills of Otterburn and other national parks long after the verbal salvoes at the inquiry have ceased.

Highdere Castle, near Newbury, that made me see red - or should I say green? - about my lawn I know it is foolish to make any comparison. for the Earl of Carnarvon's house is rather larger than mine (200-odd rooms) and his lawns, which cover eight acres, are more extensive. But what hit me was the sheer quality

dry spring, it was a living Wilton carpet, dense, soft, smooth, springy and without a weed in sight. Returning to my own patch, I saw nothing but bumps, hollows, moss, dandelions and daisies. For advice on how to sort it out, I made contact with Denis Burles, a lawn doctor who lives in Abingdon and operates around the Oxford area.

of the grass: even in this

To diagnose my problem properly, he said, would mean a site visit, for which he charges £36 an hour. Knowing that Mr Burles was an RAF pilot, and flew passenger jets for British Airways, I reckoned he must be a man with steady nerves; nevertheless, I feared that the sight of my lawn might give him a nasty turn, so to save my own embarrassment (and pocket) I opted for a discussion about lawns in

general. He agreed that many of his clients are fanatical about their grass. Some are so proud of it that they summon him mainly for praise and reassurance. Others are jealous: they have seen a marvellous lawn elsewhere, and want theirs to look like it.

Few gardeners realise how much maintenance grass needs. "People imagine that after years of neglect, everything can be put right in five minutes. They think grass is magic, and grows by itself. In fact, the only things that grow by themselves are weeds."

And moss, I suggested. "Yes," he said. "You get moss if you cut the grass too short, or the soil is compacted. But moss has no roots - only a foot, which anchors it to the nutrients out of the atmosphere, rather than from the soil. That's why

were off into the subject of patent lawnimprovers. Mr Burles is adamant that most are a waste of money. All the average grass needs, he said, is lawn sand, costing a few pence per pound: ordinary sand, that is, ferrous sulphate, which scorches moss and most weeds, and sulphate of

As for mowing, is it better to box grass off, or leave it on as mulch? Everything depends on how often you mow. "If you can see the mowings after you've cut, pick



'People think grass is magic grows by itself. In fact, only weeds do'

them up; otherwise they'll smother the rest of the grass. But if you can't see them, leave them as mulch.

Yet in periods of drought, such as we are having now, the trick is not to cut too short. With the mower shut down and disabled, make sure you can put your hand flat on the ground beneath the blades. That'll give you an inch clearance." In normal weather he is all for "over-sowing" scattering seed on to thin patches; but with the ground as dry as it is now, seed cannot

germinate. How did he learn al this? After leaving British Airways he took a course at the Sports furf Research Institute at Bisley, did his City and Guilds certificates at Waterperry Agricultural College, then day courses organised by the Institute of Groundsmanship at Milton Keynes, Eight years of practical experience have consolidated his

Besides diagnosing problems, he will also turn surgeon an operate, travelling with a battery of scarifiers and spikers. His busiest season runs from Easter until June, followed by another burst of activity in September and October.

expertise.

Back to my own ground. If I want to / create a show-piece. he said, the only thing to lo is to zap every living plant with Roundul and start again: rake of rubbish, Rotavate wil, roll with Cambride roller, level groud, lay turf or sow seed, foll, water

Curses! I thin! I'll settle for the sidus quo, weeds, bumps and all.

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Bring on the fritillaries

commonplace in middle and southern England. Fritilthe public could enjoy the spectacle. Now the number of these flowers has so diminished that perhaps only a dozen or so fritiliary meadows still exist in England.

At Ducklington in the Windrush Valley, however, the tradition is going strong and on Sunday 27 April, visitors will be welcomed to admire the village's fritiliary meadow. Local historian Phillip Best explains: "The field was bought by the Peel family who used to live in the manorhouse. They were interested in conservation, and allowed people to come and see the flowers. After they left the village, the church continued to operate the celebration and in fact sometimes some of the

family turn up to participate." This year, as in the past, tea and home-made cakes will be served in the village hall and there will be stalls on the viland other items decorated with they will be able to observe fur- Oxford High Street.

t one time the sight of a ther evidence of Ducklington's field of fritillaries was association with fritillaries. The flowers are embroi-

dered on two modern altar lary Sundays were held so that frontals and depicted in a fine stained-glass window, dating from the Thirties, by the Arts and Crafts-influenced artist Caroline Townshend.

Fritillaries are also carved into the 19th-century pulpit from Magdalen College, which itself boasts perhaps the bestknown fritillary meadow in England, Indeed, Magdalen's fritillaries may well have come from Ducklington. In the 18th century, the living of the parish was under the patronage of Magdalen College; Richard Mabey in Flora Britannica suggests that the incumbent took some of the fritillaries from Ducklington back to his college to plant.

People in Ducklington recall gypsies and locals regarding the plants as a lucrative sideline. Children would take fritillary posies to sell in Oxford and Birmingham, and flowers were even sent to Covent Garden. Ducklington was by no lage green selling tea-towels means the only place where such a trade existed. Iffley in fritillaries. Phillip Best suggests that visitors also make their way to the church, where construction of permitting children over nine years old to sell posies in

The history of the plant is of shire it was known as bloody interest because it is uncertain whether it is a germine native wild flower or a garden



illaria meleagris describes its appearance; fritillaria refers to its chequered markings and means a dice box, while meleagris refers to the mottled feathering of the guinea-fowl. It has a great many local names. including toad's head, frog cup, dead man's bells, and mourning bells of Solomon. In Berk-tradition of a Fritillary Sunday.

warrior, from the belief that each flower grew from a drop of Dane's blood. The first botanist to mention it was John Blackstone, who in 1736 noted it growing at Maud Field near Ruislip. If the plant were native to this country, it seems unlikely that early botanical writers would have overlooked it. What is certain, however, is

that the fritillary grows best on damp meadows which in the past were known as Lammas land. This was grazed from Lammas Day in August until Candlemas in February, at which time the stock was removed so that a cut of hay could be made in July. Changes in husbandry, extensive land drainage and gravel extraction have been responsible for the demise of many of these meadows, but there is still one magnificent example to be found - the 108-acre North Meadow at Cricklade in Wiltshire. Here, on the alluvial deposits of the flood plain of the rivers Thames and Churn, owns other Name &series three-quarters of the British

While Ducklington is one of hest fritillance are p the far end. the few parishes to keep up the

tomorrow at Frimsden in Suffolk, an open day for fritillary viewing will be held at Fox's Meadow, a five-acre site now owned by the juffolk Wildlife! Trust. The meadow can be! viewed throughout the flowering period, bufon the open day refreshments/are served and there is free parking. For's Meadow is nimed after a for-mer owner, queenic Fox, who opened it for charity one a year, allowing anyone who jaid a shilling to take home a butch of flowers. Of course, a pickyour-own fittillary field would be environmentally unaceptable today: fou now comesingply to look and to marve

Where to see fritillaries: Magdalen Meadow beside Magdalen College, Oxford; omorrow during Fritillary Surlay at Ducklington, six infles test of Oxford: at Fox Friellar Meadow on open day, [7-pril; at ... Boundary Farm, Fransden. near Debenham, in Suffelk (Suffolk Wildlife Trist also where frittllaries before; details. fritillary population still grows.
In bloom, it is an unforgettable

of the Situation of th Swinden and Circuster - the

Patricia Cleveland-Peck

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Tiptoeing through the tulips

Gardens: It's the season for private plots to be opened to the public. Anna Pavord visits three creations

have been haunting the Cambridge Botanic Garden for the last month. As haunts go, this is a good one: cof-fee on tap, superheated tropical glasshouses if the Fennish winds get troublesome, and an alpine house full of fabulous fritillaries, dark purple and mustard combined, which sit here like jewels in Kutchinsky's shop window.

The alpine house has a curious atmosphere, as if it were orbiting quietly out of our space and time. I think it is because the plants are so static. Each one is displayed singly in a clay pot, sunk to the rim in gravel, with various pieces of tufa rock rising gently to con the staggeringly fussy saxifrages that they are really in the Alps. I'm perfectly content to let someone else take the pain of

The alpine house was an extra. I've been at the Cambridge Botanic Garden mostly because of tulips. The national collection of species is held there, and they are planted out in a bed in the grass in front of the big glasshouse. It's been such a helter-skelter spring that flowering times have telescoped in an unusual vay, and the display has been stunning.

Even the lady tulip, Tclusiana, which is often shy-flowering, is making a good show this season. Its petals are narrow and tapering, and the backs of the outerones are washed with crimson, leaving a clear white edge round the margin. The insides are white with a slight tinge of crimson at the tips. At the base is a small, rich red-purple blotch. It is named after the Flemish botanist Clusius (Charles d'Ecluse) who reported that it came from Constantinople into Europe it from a Florentine grower. Matthaeus a back garden that contains tulips, tulips .Caccini, and it first flowered in his gar- and then more tulips. They are planted den in April 1607.

The lady tulip's native home is Iran, near Shiraz, but it quickly became naturalised in southern Europe and for a while in the Twenties and Thirties was cultivated as a cut flower along the Riviera. The then foreign secretary, Austen Chamberlain, a keen rock gardener, saw it there in the Twenties. It was just emerging in spring in the garden of Henri Correvon, one of the greatest authorities on alpine plants on the Continent. There is a minister of foreign affairs in every country," said Correvon approvingly afterwards, "but there is only one who can identify T clusiana by its leaves." I wonder if Malcolm Rifkind could do the same? It would make all the difference next Thursday, if I knew.

T clusiana var chrysantha has golden yellow flowers, the outsides of its petals stained red or purple brown. It is an eas- debilitating disease that withers foliage strange, tall tower added at the beginier thing to bring into flower, but hasn't and stunts flowers. He looked at me ning of this century by a South African



Tulips from everywhere: since the Forties, Stanley Killingback's garden, barely 80ft long, has seen about 400,000 bulbs

PHOTOS: TONY BUCKINGHAM

the same charm as Tchusiana. There are plenty of red and yellow species tulips, but few that are red and white. I'm going to be in trouble with Stanley Killingback for saying that. He likes his chrysanthas, planted in the garden that he will be opening for the National Garden Scheme tomorrow. This is the first time he's opened, and tomorrow is your only chance to see the garden.

I use the word "garden" in the widest possible sense. "Trial ground" might describe it better. Behind Mr Killingback's red-brick, semi-detached house in via Florence in 1606. Clusius himself got the north-eastern suburbs of London lies in blocks that may contain anything from

10 to 100 bulbs all of the same kind. Each year Mr Killingback makes copious notes on the tulips he likes and the few he doesn't. He's been doing this since the Forties, and reckons that by now he must have grown nearly 800 different types of tulip - perhaps 400,000 bulbs. And all this in a garden barely 80ft

There's no nonsense here about coordinating colours, or setting the rulip's flowers against complementary foliage, which are the things that many tulip growers have in mind when they plant. With Mr Killingback, the head count is all. Never mind the nuances, feel the

I observed that, growing tulips for so long in the same place, Mr Killingback had been lucky to avoid tulip fire, a

sternly. "Some people deserve their luck," he said.

George Adams of Pinchbeck Hall, Pinchbeck, near Spalding in Lincolnshire, is about the same age as Mr Killingback and has the same uncom-



promising attitude to life: you get out of it precisely what you put in. He has put a lot into his garden, which is also open tomorrow. This is a big garden, about six acres, laid out round a handsome, early-18th-century brick house, with a rather

railway magnate who was nostalgic for the look-out towers of the veld. The first thing you notice are the trees.

This is partly because they are very fine - an avenue of limes, a cut-leaf beech. a copper beech - but also partly because here you are in the Fens, where trees assume a preciousness they don't have in areas further west. Like the church steeples, old trees become important landmarks. Above all, they represent

Mr Adams inherited these beauties, but has continued to plant, notably in a paddock that used to house the family pony. Here he has put a mulberry, a tree of heaven, a variegated tulip tree and a other side of the house blew over in a gale. He's fed up about that. He went to a lot of trouble to get it, sending a meat lorry down to Notcutt's stand at the Chelsea Flower Show to collect the specimen he'd set his heart on. Meat is his business, as you would know if you lived within a 50-mile radius of Pinchbeck, He

enjoys his garden.
"Well," he says. "if it isn't fun, there's no point in doing it, is there?" Lincolnshire is a vast county and a surprising one. It must have boomed in the 18th century, for several relatively small

places, such as Folkingham, have splendid and elegant assembly rooms. Folkingham is a big surprise, set on the slope of a hill - yes, a hill - where the road opens out into a generous en. It is dominated by the Greyhound Hotel at the top, made of Georgian

brick, with the grand assembly room, lit

THE 1997

GARDEN

PROJECT BOOK

BRADSTONE

by its Venetian window, on the right.

If you wander further on up north you will come to Holton-le-Moor, just west of the Wolds, where Philip and Vanessa Gibbons are opening their garden at Holton-le-Moor Hall tomorrow. It is bounded round the southern side by a half ha-ha, giving long views out over parkland to the Wolds beyond. This is a settled, comfortable old garden, very well treated by its owners, who have given it new hedges of hombeam, beech, yew and holly, to break its two-and-a-

half acres into separate compartments. The house was built in 1785 and you would guess that the big kitchen garden was laid out at about the same time. The wonder here is an old espaliered apple tree - a cooker - that stretches for 73ft along a path. Some of the mossy branches go right-angled round the path corner. I've never seen a better one. Mr Gibbons thinks it may be the longest single espalier in the country. If anyone has an espaliered apple with longer branches, I'd like to know about it.

The Cambridge Botanic Garden, Baseman Street, Cambridge, is open daily. 10am-6pm, admission £1.50. The other three gardens are open for one afternoon only this year. Stanley Killingback's garden at 16 Hillcrest Road, London E18, is open tomorrow, 2pm-6pm, admission £1. George Adams's garden at Pinchbeck Hall, Pinchbeck, is open tomorrow, 2pm-5pm, admission £1. The Gibbons's garden at Holton-le Moor Hall, Holton-le-Moor, is open tomorrow, 2pm-5.30pm, admis-

of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens is holding a grand spring sale tomorrow, 11am-4pm, at Wyken Hall, Stanton, near



Bury St Edmunds, Specialist nurseries will be offering a wide variety of trees, shrubs and other plants. The Suffolk Group's own stall will have other rarities and bargains. Admission to Wyken Hall gardens is £2.

The Alpine Garden Society's North of England group has a big show at the Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, this weekend. Saxifrages, lewisias, cyclamen, primulas, dwarf rhododendrons and pleione orchids will all be on display. Open today, 9.30am-6pm, admission £7.50, and tomorrow, 9.30am-4.30pm, admission £6. The Ulster group of the AGS is also holding a show today, 1pm-1pm, at Greenmount Agricultural and Horticultural College, Muckamore, Co Antrim. Admission £1.

The swoony heat over Easter and just after was followed by nights of finger-aching cold. Rogue potatoes that never got lifted last year, and had already gaily sprouted growth above ground, got a nasty shock in our garden. I've reached for the Agralan mail order catalogue to increase the fleece cover of the vegetable patch. The stuff they call Envirofleece Plus costs £9.99 for a piece 2.6 metres by 7 metres. To protect newly planted or tender shrubs, you probably need the slightly heavier grade Enviroficece 30, which costs £8.99 for a piece 2.4 metres by 5 metres. Tri-pegs to hold down fleeces cost £3.15 for a pack of eight. You can get the mail-order catalogue from Agralan, The Old Brickyard, Ashton Keynes, Swindon, Wilts SN6 6OR (01285 860015).

Weekend work

New growth is already well advanced on autumn perennials such as Michaelmas daisy and rudbeckia. Splitting and resetting congested clumps increases their flower power. It is a job that can be done in autumn or in spring.

If you want to do it now, lift the whole clump and split off the most vigorous pieces of growth - usually those round the edges. Replant the best bits in soil that has been refreshed with compost, bonemeal or a sprinkling of seaweed fertiliser.

While spring bulbs are stars of the garden, summer-flowering bulbs are starting to appear in garden centres. Look out for Galionia candicans, a stiff-stemmed plant with flowers like an enormous white hyacinth. It grows to 4ft high. Bulbs should be planted at least 6in deep and 6in apart. They are excellent among herbaceous perennials, and flower July to September.

Sow a row of peas, and remind yourself what a proper pea tastes like. I have sown the early variety 'Douce Provence' (Marshalls, £1.64 for a large packet), which is sweeter than the standard early variety 'Feltham First.' I've also put in a row of broad beans 'Green Windsor' (Johnsons, £1.45), which have short, broad pods, and beans of an excellent flavour. But you need to pick broad beans young, before the coat round the bean has turned to leather. If you grow your own, you can pick the pods at the right time. Commercial growers gain from the extra weight of more mature pods.

Heathers can be trimmed over now to remove old flower growths. Take care not to cut back into old wood. Layering is a painless way to propagate heathers. Scoop out a series of shallow bowls in the earth around the plant and fill them with sandy compost. Peg the branches down in this mixture, using bent wire or stones.

Books in the running brooks

Where learning is a breath of fresh air. By Sally Staples

playground? Chances local community, there are are it was a regulation plum and apple trees, a bluesquare of concrete where gangs lurked in the corners and the rough surface regu-larly stripped the skin off vulnerable knees. Those were the days when children spent most of the school day restricted to learning in the classroom and nature walks were an occasional treat. Now, thanks to the environmental charity Learning Through Landscapes, pupils and teachers all over Britain are being encouraged to take lessons outside, and to turn their own school grounds into an additional classroom.

Next Friday more than half a million children in some 1,700 schools will celebrate School Grounds Day by taking part in projects such as pond dipping, brick-making, tree and flower planting, bird- and but-box building, tree dressing and creating nature trails.

It is unlikely, however, that many schools will offer the variety found at Coombes lutant School, just outside Reading in Berkshire. Here, under the guidance of headteacher Sue Humphries, boys कारों girls are used to learning Outside, and their every activity will be related to maths, scicace, geography, biology, music or botany.

Twenty-five years ago Combes Infant School in Arborfield was just a building hre rough field. Now, thanks bell wood, secret dens built from old logs, willow arbours and arches, nature trails, four sheep (soon to produce lambs), even an amphitheatre. which enthusiastic parents are helping to construct.
Sitting in rows above the

amphitheatre, a group of sixyear-olds were working with

emember the school to parents, teachers and the tic point. In the bluebell wood the art class had taken out carpet squares to lie on while they drew in a natural habitat, instead of copying from a vase in a studio. Pond dipping is not just about catching things in your net; it is about studying

> The deputy head, Susan Rowe, was supervising a gloriously messy class who were busy making mortar and build-



School's out in the playground

compass points; in a corner of have seen building going on in of work. the playing field more young- school, and it's so important to sters were making patterns with dandelions, using the inspiration of real paintings. Others made and measured a daisy chain to exactly half a metre, so they could measure the length of the dandelion patterns made by their friends.

As Sue pointed out, behind

every activity there is a didac-

clipboards and learning about ing a brick wall. "The children relate what they do to what they see going on round them," she said. Another group was making

music with sticks by beating the ground in regular rhythms. This, Sue explained, was to do with maths, co-ordination and working as a team as much as it was to do with music.

Parents are encouraged to drop in and watch, or help with their children's activities. John Tupman, whose daughter has just started at Coombes, is delighted at the approach to learning: "I think it's lovely to learn about natural history in this way. The children are so clearly very interested in what is going on round them."

Coombes Infant School has regular visits from schools both in Britain and abroad. On Friday the school will be hosting the national launch of School Grounds Day, and this is the third year that Learning Through Landscapes has celebrated its focus on using school grounds for educational, environmental and community activities.

Director Bill Lucas said: With most children spending over a quarter of their school day outside in the grounds, it is crucial that these places make their experience enjoyable and worthwhile. Teachers in hundreds of schools are backing our research into the dramatic benefits of this kind

When their school grounds are used and developed in the right way, bullying, vandalism and accidents are reduced and pupils' attitude and behaviour are improved," he added.

The charity has been backed this year by Esso UK, which has issued schools with a special pack to help them survey their grounds as a starting

gardening

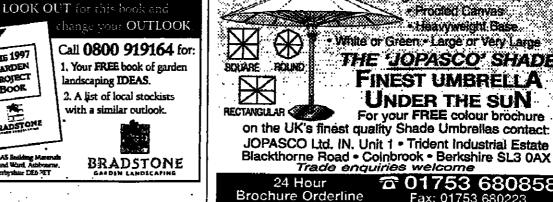


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been like, giving us a very local con-nection. The lady in the chemist,

Gee's, told us that when the shop was being re-erected here they

asked Mr Gee's daughter-in-law to

show them where he had kept his

stores. In the hardware shop the man talked to the children about prices, how they compared to

wages and what people spent their

money on. He had a kettle on sale

for 10 shillings, a shopkeeper's weekly wage. He explained that it

may seem a lot but the kettle would last forever.

The staff were helpful but there

were not enough of them to give the place the feeling of a true min-ing community. We didn't do much

on the canal, and while it was such

an essential part of the whole set-

up there was not a lot of informa-

tion down there or people to ask

about it. This may be better on a

Getting there: The Black Country Museum, Tipton Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 4SQ (0121

557 9643), is well signposted from Junction 2 of the M5 and lies on

the A4037 just off the A4123. By

train: Tipton station is on the

Birmingham to Wolverhampton

line. Buses to the museum run

from Owen Street by the station. Opening times: daily 10am-5pm from 1 March-31 October. Wed-Sun

10am-4pm November-February.
Admission: Adults £6.95, OAPs £5.95, children (5-17) £4.50, family ticket (2 adults, 3 children)

£19.50. Extras - canal trips last

about 40 minutes, adults £3.50,

Toilets: Good facilities around the

Access: Good free parking on site.

Access around the museum is on

foot but there is a free tram oper-

village. Disabled access to most of

brighter day.

The deal

children £2.

Deep down it was scary

Days out: The Allan family visits the Black Country Museum. By Catherine Stebbings

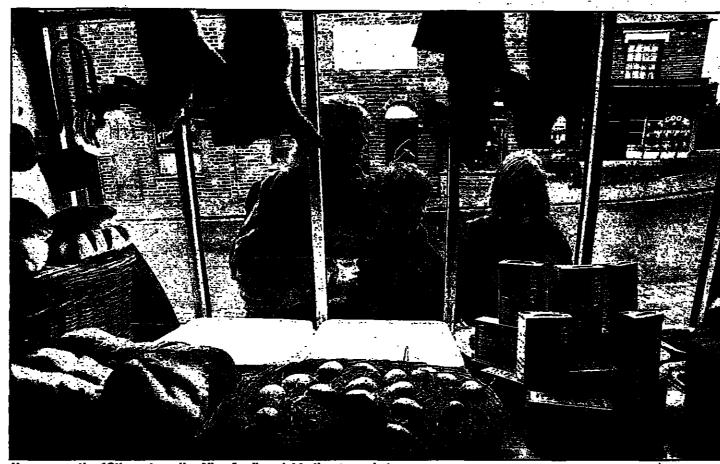
■he redundant pit frame of Racecourse Colliery perches on a hill surrounded by rusting carts. tracks, coal and an abandoned slag heap. It might seem a place of quiet desolation but below the ground there is a hive of activity. Here you can get an all-too-real taste of life in the maze of cramped tunnels as you take an underground tour of the 1850s coalmine. At the Black Country Museum in Dudley, West Midlands, you learn how they extracted the Staffordshire thick coal, and you also find out a great deal about the social past of this mining area. Above ground, you can board a tramcar that runs down the hill past a supervisor's cottage - which leans precariously as a result of the subsidence caused by the tunnelling below. It rattles on past a toll house and worker's cottage to a colourful fairground complete with helter-skelter, coconut shy and impressive 1930s ark.

Beyond the fair is a mining village - or at least a reconstructed one, complete with sweet shop, hardware store, haberdashery, chemist, Methodist chapel, inn and a 1920s cinema. Staff done up in traditional costume serve in the shops and are on hand to answer questions. Brightly painted boats line the canal nearby, the waterways having once played a vital part in the transport of coal. A few boats glide off into the Dudley tunnel canal for visitors who want to see the caverns there.

The visitors

Sue Allan, a nurse, took her children, Lauren, 10, Tim, 8, and

Lauren: The Black Country Museum was brilliant. It was like going back in time, seeing the mine, the colliery, the houses and been in the 19th century. I've never been anywhere like it. I learned a lots of tracks and carts, the colliery caught cockroaches in the night.



Hung-up on the 19th century: the Allan family outside the general store

I don't think they earned very much. The houses seemed quite small, and just had rugs on the floor, little furniture, and the loos were outside in the garden shed.

I enjoyed the cinema, where we saw an old Charlie Chaplin film. It was not very comfy - we had to sit on wooden benches - and the film was very shaky, black and white, and no talking - just music. It was

is all to do with mining. There are brushes and beetle-traps which

lot about the way the people lived. I don't think they earned very and the mine itself. The best bit was Josie: I really enjoyed the village and best of all the fairground, have worked down there. It was cold, wet, dark, very dangerous and not very well paid. Often the miners were paid in tokens which they could only use in certain shops - and these usually belonged to the mine-owners, so things were expen-

We went down to the village on the tram and there I got a good idea about life in the 19th century. I liked the hardware store, which the shops just as they would have Tim: The first part of the museum had baths like big tins, ropes,

sive. Miners had a hard life.

which was like an old travelling fair. There were swinging boats, a mirror place, a wobbly thing you had to walk along and a helter skelter which looked really old.

In the village the lady in the sweetshop made banana sweets, which weren't exactly delicious but quite nice. In the chemist we saw some scales where you paid a shilling and weighed your baby.

Down the mine there was a pretend explosion, which made the ground tremble under our feet. I found the area outside the mine a

bit boring because there were lots of big machines, piles of coal, and I didn't really understand how it all

Sne: It was easy to wander round at your own pace, and there was enough to keep everyone's interest all day. The mine experience was just right, the children were not scared, but we could all see how grim it must have been.

ating between the entrance and the The staff were down-to-earth, local and well-informed, and the the site, including the underground mine tour. Some buildings are too shopkeepers were keen to discuss where the original buildings had been and what the owners had

Are we nearly there? Losing battles for kids - a

round-up of mazes

Kent's Hever Castle, near Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7NG (01732 865224) Don't start with the maze. or you may miss the Italian garden. sculpture, cascades and fountains that decorate the childhood home of Anne Bolcyn, Open daily, Ham-fpm, Admission £4.90/£3.90.

Hampton Court Palace, Surrey KT8 49AU (0181-781 9500) A third of a million visitors each year have left this most famous maze looking slightly ropy. It may have to be cut down and replaced later in the year, so see William of Orange's puzzle now. Open Tue-Sun 9.3kim-opm; Mon 10.15am-6pm. Admission £5.60-£8.50, under-fives free.

Jubilee Park, Symonds Yat, Hereford HR9 6DA (01600 890011) The Museum of Mazes and the Jubilee Maze were creeted here in the year of the Queen's Jubilee. Men are a bit of a lost cause: they "only rescue ladies". Open daily, 11am-5pm.
Admission £2,80/£1.50.

Wookey Hole Caves and Papermill, Wells, Somerset BA5 1BB (01749-672243) The legendary home of the Witch of Wookey has various exhibits - including the chance to make one of yourself in the Magical Mirror Maze. Open daily, 9.36um-5.30pm. Admission £6.50 £3.50.

Chatsworth House, Chatsworth Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1PP (01246 582204) The yew maze was planted by the present Duke and Duchess of Devonshire in 1962 on the site of Paxton's Great Stove, a vast greenhouse blown-up as a result of fuel shortages in WW1. Open daily, 11am-4.30pm. Admission

Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, Oxford 0X20 1PX (01993 811325) The playful home of the 11th Duke of Marlborough has the largest hedge maze in the world, putting-greens, giant chess and inflatable castles. If you need to shake off the parents there's the Churchill exhibition, shops and the lake. Open daily, kim-5pm. Admission £3.80-£7.80.

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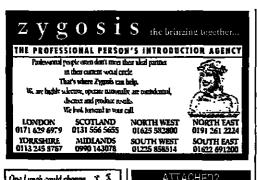
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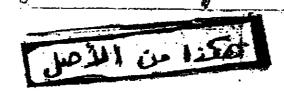
EVERY YEAR MILLIONS OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS ARE KILLED TO PROVIDE OUR FOOD

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20 Politicians for sale Under the counter with Lindsay Calder Motoring: New Espace, Cronenburg on Jags 21

Ad Watch

"D rink me: I'm trendy" is the message behind

the latest advertising

You're

getting

Fanta

The key

Khaki is the modern urbanite's battledress. Melanie Rickey reports from the war zone

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L'. Hever Castle, bear in Heren Land TNS 7NG (OT) the many of the state of the st

> he buses of London are currently being used in a battle of the khaki giants. Calvin Klein's slouching, asexual boys are pouting and posing with Kate Moss at Piccadilly Circus as the "Every khaki only Gap" advert swooshes past them and up Regent Street on the side of a number 73 bus. Khaki is a big fashion story for this now the number one brand summer (despite having been a wardrobe staple for years) comes anywhere near denim in sums the Gap, Calvin Klein and of course, Levi's, with its best-selling Docker brand, are pumping into their advertising have you seen the man ironing his bacon sandwich in the Dockers ad, yet?)

Khakis, or, as they call them in America (much to the amusement of the English) "kackees", have traditionally been known as chino trousers,

cotton. However, "khaki" was the Gujerati word for a mudcoloured cloth - from khak, the Persian word for "dust" and is one of many English words taken from our time in India (others are shampoo, bungalow, pyjama and jodh-purs). Khaki trousers were first worn by British soldiers in India during the 1882 Egyptian campaign. Their modern descendants have merged, via the Boer War and the two World Wars, with American chinos, and are now the trousers of choice for millions of American men who dress as

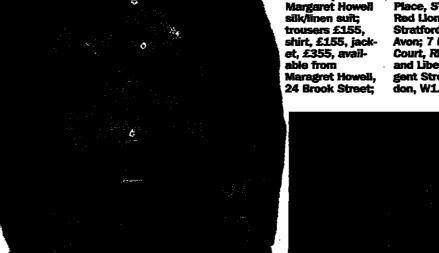
The "mufti" days, or casual Fridays, were introduced in the Eighties when Levi Strauss was approached by white-collar firms eager to encourage their employees to relax office dress codes. Dockers were brought in, and they sponsored a whole series of "how to" books on dressing down. Dockers are in America: two out of three men own at least two pairs. and is the only classic that and their most popular colour uesseo 11 — Knaki popularity. Today it is omni- Since Dockers were launched present, thanks to the huge here in 1995, they have managed to dent Gap's superior market position; they sold 1.1

turn-ups and made of pure and belt loops. There are four designs, with three fits: loose,

they please at work on Fridays.

million pairs across Europe last year, more than doubling 1995's figures. Gap launched their khakis in 1985 on the back of Dock-

ers' US success; their aim was women's styles: to make the trousers as accessible and universal as jeans, and it has worked. Gap has three basic styles for men: be they flat-fronted, pleated, easy, relaxed, and slim-fit, all wide or slim, with or without with reinforced pockets, crotch



Place, SW3; 9 Old Red Lion Court, Stratford Upon Avon; 7 Paved Court, Richmond and Liberty, Regent Street London, W1.

Calvin Klein Khak

cK Khaki's - from £65 for men

stockist call 0171-259 6011

people who bave never

worn (and

will never

wear) a suit

have begun

modern

uniform.

lection.

modern

urban uniform", is the khaki

look repackaged: vaguely mil-

itary in flavour, downbeat and

very, very cool. The range fea-

tures two basic trouser designs,

a pleated front and the more

up-to-date flat front for both

sexes, with slim-cut hipsters

aimed directly at women (see

Kate Moss on the buses).

There is even a "loose and

easy" version for women:

slim. Dock-

have the largest

size scale available: waists

from 28in to 40in and inside

leg from 30in to 36in.

Kiem's col

which he

calls "the

work

to

29 Beauchamp Dockers khaki's (above)cost from £35, and are available from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1; Capolito Roma, The Marlands Centre.

Gap Khaki's cost from £34 for men's

Howell, whose silk/linen suit

(pictured) is the embodiment

of cool, are doing dressier

khaki suits for women – still

worn in a similar way to the

men, but with a serious dose of

commonly asked questions

about khaki is to do with its

colour. Many think it is a

sludgy olive green, or Army

green, others an off-white,

sandy colour. To put the record

straight, according to the Con-

cise Oxford Dictionary it is "a

dull, brownish yellow", which

doesn't sound too attractive,

priced cotton/Lycra boot-cut but means that any shade, as

hipsters for girls, and flat- long as it's a mixture of brown

Postscript: One of the most

effortless chic thrown in.

and women styles. For your local and women's styles. For your local

Special offer

waist size to:

Dockers have kindly offered

to send a pair of khaki shorts

to the first 20 readers who

send a postcard with their

Independent/Dockers Offer,

Level 1&2, D'Arblay House,

to look as though borrowed

from the boyfriend (it would

be much cheaper to nick them

from him, though). There are

also safari jackets, slim-fit

shirts, shirt dresses and thick,

ribbed vests and T-shirts which

As well as the Americans',

British design labels and high-street stores have gone khaki crazy this spring. See French

Connection for reasonably

are bound to sell and sell.

FAO Michelle Baker,

10a Poland Street,

London WIV 3DE.

Southampton: Fenwicks of Tunbridge Wells, Kent and Royal Victoria Place and The Dockers Store, Lakeside Shopping Centre Thurrock, Essex.

campaign for Funta. Hardly a unique selling-point, one would think, But it is for Fanta, which has suffered years of neglect by its parent, Coca-Cola, while rival Tango

has taken Britain by storm. Fanta's new campaign features ads designed to reflect the fun personality of the drink", Coca-Cola explains. In one commercial, a group of boring American teenagers obsessed with mud (they live, breathe and wash in it) have their lives revolutionised by something orange. No, not Tango but Fanta,

whose influence turns the tribe into Face-reading trendsetters. In another, pushing ice is the social highlight for a fictional Canadian community. Except when under the influence of Fanta, that is, when they don summer clothes and get a life.

The aim is to resurrect Fanta in the UK, where it languishes at 10th position in the sales league for soft drinks. In contrast, outside the UK - where Tango is not available - Fanta is the fourth most popular. Coca-



Cola sees "no logical reason" for this, but says "There is no orange war."

Fanta benefits from its parent's supply contract with McDonald's - it's the fast food giant's official orange drink. But this has done little to grow consumer interest in the brand.

The flavoured drinks sector has stayed still in the UK simply "because we've not invested in it", a Coke spokeswoman, Louise Terry, explains. Ten years ago, flav-oured fizzy drinks were selling as many cans in the UK as fizzy colas.

Now "colas have been making more noise – it's as simple as that." As a result, competition from a wide range of other non-alcoholic drinks - even coffee, tea and water – has taken its toli.

Which is hardly surprising when you consider Coca-Cola's chief preoccupation: winning the Cola War against arch-rival Pepsi, as upstarts such as Virgin Cola snap at the big boys heels. Each cola giant invests tens of millions of pounds in marketing each year; the battle reached new heights last April when Pepsi unveiled its new blue can.

So, Fanta's solution? To shout louder. It's a "mainstream" brand with mass market appeal amongst discerning and advertising-literate 14-to-17-year-olds, savs Bruce Haines, chief executive of Leagas Delaney, the advertising agency behind the campaign.

"It's a brand that's had to grow up," he adds. To appeal to the under-10s you must target the early teens; to appeal to early teens, 17-to-19-year-olds. Where Tango plays to its British heritage, Fanta is all about "global"

Without doubt, Fanta's all-American voice-over des-

drinks business Britvic's approach for Tango (remember the bald Orangeman slapping faces with a large, orange rubber hand?) is cult status, And here's the rub: Tango achieved it seemingly by not

Apart from office bound when worn they are supposed fronted, slim-cut trousers for and yellow, is khaki.

Third World producers are ma Chaudhy 1171 293 234 starting to get a Meg Carter

and is regularly monitored. So far, there are only a handful investment needed properly to re-

ETHICAL PROPERTY S about the proof.

CFCs have now been befored from all acrosol more information, call 0117 929 0661

property in a product in the UK, for example.

A second generation of environmental independent body monitoring forests, set up so the environment of anythonic products in the UK, for example.

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products from properly managed sources. For more information, call 01686 412176 The Marine Stewardship Council was

way, insist that ethical trading is now ucts. The company has been workhigh on the agenda' Good news for Third World pro-

ducers? Maybe. But a number of worries remain. One area of contention is the monitoring procedures required for an ethical code of practice. With different chains developing different strategies, there are calls to set up an independent body to oversee all ethical codes. "There is still no effective way of checking these codes," says Maggie Burns, of the Catholic Institute for International Relations, which is monitoring developments.

Then there's the matter of just how the supermarket chains will use their fairly traded products. "It's a double-edged sword," Mr Wells believes. "While supermarkets' own fairly traded

products can only promote the fair trade movement, it may also lead to them stocking their goods instead of Fairtrade ones." Communication is yet another issue. "Interest in developing codes so far has been great, but some strategies have been at best wishful thinking, at worse PR,"
Ms Burns says. "Lack of information is a problem. Companies are not yet willing to say 'our policy is

develop incentives for sustainable fishing.

The company has also pledged to phase out the use of fish oil from European sources in

120 product lines. Last week, Sainsbury also

pledged its support. For more information.

call the WWF on 01483 426444. Fairtrade

labelling denotes products produced to

approved working conditions, including

One way to overcome this will be closer co-operation between rival chains and interested parties such as the Fairtrade Foundation. So far, however, only Sainsbury and the Coop have publicly endorsed Fairtrade Foundation's aim to develop an international code. "The supermarkets are extremely competitive and there are tensions between larger and smaller groups," Mr Simms observes. "There is definitely a 'first is best' drive amongst larger chains, which are investing resources

in developing it and might be reluct-ant to see smaller chains cashing in." Which is why Mr Wells is now encouraging household brand names, such as Premium Beverages, to join the cause. Last month Premium, owner of Typhoo tea, signed up to Fairtrade's independent monitoring scheme. "People don't want to buy a fair trade product instead of a better quality household brand," he explains. "They want to know that

label must be understood and trusted. Rival fair trade claims could confuse - as has already happened in the "green" arena. Many "cnvironmentally friendly" claims are now seen by shoppers as "misleading, meaningless or even downright dishonest", a National Consumer Council report recently revealed. As a result, many people have given up

trying to buy "green" altogether.

all the goods they might want to buy

wages, hours and environment. For more information, call 0171 405 5942.

> context". Oh, and fun. new ads are appealing, especially the cod serious. cribing the bizarre preoccupations of the characters. Coca-Cola is spending no less than £15m on the push, Ms Terry points out. But there must be a

question mark over a strategy that so selfconsciously sets out to convince the world that Fanta is trendy.

The difference with rival trying at all,

Meg Carter

The world according to fair trading made a commitment to the scheme and will

slim, classic, low-rise, and

relaxed fit. Dockers have no

styles aimed directly at

women, but the trousers can

always be nabbed from male

friends. There are six different

fairer deal, says

ike is the latest in a growing line of companies eager to be seen to be standing up for workers' rights in Third World countries. Last week the sportswear giant was reported to have signed a code of charter, calling for "ethical pur-chasing which guarantees decent conduct on employee practices around the world. Closer to home. employment and environmental conditions". Meanwhile, most of Buitish supermarkets are attempting to do the same. But for the consumer with a conscience, shopping ethically is not as simple as it sounds.
"Fair trading" is the term widely Fairtrade goods. And shoppers are about the products they buy, says Andrew Simms, communications

used to describe buying and selling products made by people working in decent conditions, and paid a fair wage. It is the idea behind the Fairtrade Foundation (FF) which, with the backing of voluntary organisations including Christian Aid, has developed the Fairtrade marque an endorsement guaranteeing that Third World production of an item has met certain ethical standards, has been systematically checked

ing with suppliers. The reason is simple, according to Sainsbury's techni-cal manager Dr Petrina Fridd: "We of Fairtrade products available in the UK. The best known are Café are responding to public demand." Direct coffee, Clipper tea and Maya Sainsbury has been working with Gold chocolate. The reason is the Fairtrade Foundation for the past 18 months. It has developed a pilot search and source the products. study involving a detailed survey of explains Phil Wells, director of Fairproduction methods for four owntrade Foundation. "Before a Fairbrand products: flowers in Kenya, hade product can be launched, we tea in India, babywear and electriwith local farmers, this takes time. cal goods in China. A survey has need to form effective partnerships It is impossible to apply the same been conducted in each country

Shadow overseas development min-

ister, Clare Short, launched an ethics

the major supermarkets now stock

demanding ever more information

manager at Christian Aid, which is

campaigning for a supermarket charter for the Third World.

table was growing in Kenya or South

America just 24 hours before, per-

ceptions of where home begins and

ends inevitably change," he says.

Small wonder, then, if supermarkets

are now working to develop their own

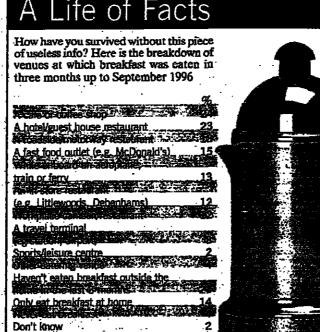
fair trade codes of conduct for deal-

"When the food on your dinner

standards for different products and responses are now being strong team of ethical advisers to trade. Other chains, including Safe- other worries. In order to work, a made by different processes in dif- analysed. The results will be used to monitor foodstuffs and other prodferent countries." prepare a draft code of conduct In spite of this, support for fair trading is growing. Last month, the

Source: BMRB/Mintel

ing on its own code with Christian which the company hopes to intro-Aid since last October, and will soon duce at 5,000 supplier sites early take part in a pilot study to assess Meanwhile, Tesco last month what it needs to measure - and how announced plans to launch a 70- - to shape its own definition of fair



this, or that Labelling is seen by many as the inevitable end result, but this raises have been responsibly produced."

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A motoring organisation that hates motorists? That's right – the RAC's grown green

he RAC has dropped the crown from its logo, and the Queen is said to be pleased. It has also dropped motorists from its embrace and, although Her Majesty's view on this subject is unknown, all other car users should

feel anything but pleased.
The RAC is moving with the times to be a 21st-century "mobility" organisation, pushing the interests of cyclists and public transport users as well as motorists - or so its New Labour-style allthings-to-all-people manifesto implies. "We favour travel over traffic, and mobility over motoring. Our members want help and advice in all aspects of mobility - that is the future of the RAC," said chief executive Neil Johnson at last week's press launch. Johnson, who looks and talks like a politician. fended off questions from environment and motoring writers with equally skilled non-answers.

Quizzed by one environment correspondent on what the RAC was actually going to do to promulgate the appeal of non-car transport, he proffered the new RAC pushbike, yours for a mere £647. When another writer pointed out that the bike had neither lights nor a bell, Johnson came close to being fazed. But not quite. Appropriately, the bike is engineered by Dr Alex Moulton, car engineer turned pushbike maker.

While the RAC's policies are changing, so are its vans. The handsome white, blue and silver liveried breakdown machines are to be replaced by Dayglo-orange coloured vehicles, which look like Dyno-rod vans. The monarchistic Knights of the Road are to be replaced by Republicans with a Rod, or so you'd think.

Of course, part of me welcomes the RAC's arrival into the Nineties. and its belief in "integrated transport policies". Most of us realised years ago that a roads-only transport policy is a road to nowhere. Now even the RAC is jumping on the enviro-bandwagon. This is an organisation, bear in mind, which has traditionally shown itself to be about as in touch with everyday issues as Bertie Wooster. It has historically resisted speed limits, the breathalyser and the compulsory wearing of seatbelts, and still forbids women from becoming full members of its Pall Mail club, even though its recent Knights of the Road ads were aimed at females.

But is it right or appropriate for a motoring organisation to get all green and cuddly and pretend to have a balanced and enlightened view of integrated transport? Surely it should accept that its primary duty is to speak on behalf of its 6 million motoring members and, de facto, the nation's motorists. If you want an intelligent pro-car view, you talk to the RAC. Just as if you want an informed pro-green view, you talk to the Friends of the Earth. Nobody expects the Friends of the Earth to have a balanced view on transport, any more than you'd expect the TUC to argue on behalf

of both employers and employees. Myriad bits of legislation are imminent which will profoundly affect motorists. Extra road tax. extra insurance costs, motorway tolls, tighter speed limits, smartcards to bill those entering cities, more expensive parking tickets, escalating costs to squeeze the impecunious off the road - the RAC has a responsibility to talk on behalf of Britain's motorists on these great issues, and argue their case.

An organisation that runs silly pseudo-intellectual TV ads featuring academies and technologists and environmentalists - they began broadcasting last Sunday as part of a £4m PR campaign - and which tries to sell overpriced pushbikes as proof of its green credentials, is an organisation starting to get dangerously out of touch with its members and with everyday motorists. Car drivers need lobbying champions, just like any other major group. (And there aren't many larger groups than motorists, nor many clouted harder by the tax man.) With the national mood becoming increasingly and often irrationally anti-car, so the need for a strong. independent voice becomes greater.

The RAC should fulfil this role. Yet it is on the verge of failing motorists. Some would say it has already done so. If it does fail drivers, so its whole raison d'etre comes into question. A "mobility organisation" doesn't seem to have much purpose in life.

Iron hand, velvet glove

motoring



ROAD TEST Renault Espace By Roger Bell

leable, on the inside impregnably hard. No, not a hazelnut cream but Renault's new Espace, skinned with dent-resistant plastic bodywork over a galvanised steel shelf. Put the boot in and the composite panels spring back into place, unmarked.

Kick-proof flanks are among several classunique features claimed for the Espace by Renault, pioneers of the monospace MPV, or people carrier. The original 1984 Espace - the great mould-breaking car of its time - was always going to be a hard act to follow. That Renault has topped it with a successor of amazing versatility confirms that Gallic flair is still alive and well.

Other novelties you'll not find in any close rival include cavernous door and dashboard stowage, slimline digital instruments, individual left/right heater controls, two rear openings (tailgate or hinged window), pretensioners on six seat belts, and railed rear seats that can be positioned as you want them (or removed altogether). Cars don't come much funkier than this.

Other than in size and concept, the new Espace owes very little to the old; the engine, for instance, is no longer set longitudinally, but slung across the nose to save space. Unlike some rivals, Renault has not tried to make its family seven-seater feel like an ordinary car from the driver's seat. Far from it. You sit a long way back, separated from the distant screen by a vast expanse of dashtop plastic. To reach the air vents, you have to lean so far forward that your head brushes the wheel.

Even the heating/venting controls are beyond arm's length. Speed is indicated by

n the outside, it's soft and mal- a central digital display that is far to the left of your normal sightline.

The explanation for these and other ergonomic anomalies is simple: packaging. Renault has sacrificed convention, even convenience, in its unbridled quest for space to stow (and lose) the paraphernalia of family motoring.

Renault Espace RXE turbodiesel

Specifications

Engine: 2,188cc, four cylinders, 12 valves, 115bhp at 4,500rpm; five-speed manual gearbox, front-wheel drive. Performance: top speed 109mph, 0-60mph in 14.2 seconds. Fuel consumption 35.3mpg.

Ford Galaxy 1.9td Ghia, £23,435 More conventional, less innovative and versatile than the Espace - but still the most car-like MPV you can get. Cloned with the VW Sharan and Seat Alhambra. Good to drive, classy styling. 2.8 petrol. Ghia pick of the range. Peugeot 806 1.9td SV, £23,640. Versatile, roomy cabin and seating, drives and handles well. Van-like in appearance, lacks design flair. Said by Renault to depreciate in value faster than the Espace. Cloned with Citroen

Toyota Previa 2.4 GL, £23,819. Petrol-only Previa with out-of-sight under-floor engine, strong on performance, accommodation and build quality. Ovoid shape too Thunderbirds for some tastes. Holds value pretty well: has no clones.

Weird though it feels at first, the far-back driving position is different rather than bad. Lofty (and very comfortable) seating that affords a panoramic view through big, slimpillared windows helps to overcome any initial feeling of awkwardness. So do rear headrests that can be retracted to clear the view aft (head-rest obstruction is a major problem when reversing, in some other MPVs). There's nothing van-like about the ride, steering or cornering powers of the new Espace. Dynam-

ically, the new Laguna-suspended model

holds its own against the best MPV opposition.

A decade on from its launch in 1984, the old Espace was still the best-selling MPV in Britain. Since then, sales have declined as rivals - notably the Ford Galaxy/VW Sharan twins have proliferated. Renault has not so much conceded defeat as bowed to pragmatism; the new Espace cannot compete on volume so it's being aimed at affluent buyers seeking "the most original and innovative MPV available".

Nearly half the 2,200 Espaces Renault expects to sell this year will be manual turbodiesels. With an average consumption of more than 35mpg, these 12-valve oil-burners are much more economical than the alternative 2.0 and 3.0 V6 petrol automatics. Better security has resulted in lower insurance costs, too, says Renault. If the new Espace inherits the old one's low depreciation, strong resale

values will also remain a major selling point.

Prices range from £18,995 for the 115bhp
20 RT to £26,695 for the 3.0 V6 auto RXE. Even with the cheapest RT trim you get two airbags, electric mirrors/windows/central locking, and six-speaker, thief-proof hi-fi. Air-conditioning, anti-lock brakes and a CD player are included on the RT-XS.

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ROVER



David Cronenberg, director of the controversial film 'Crash', talks about his enthusiasm for cars and racing

've just finished a script. It's Everybody does it. Everybody called Red Cars. I don't know whether it will be my next movie or not. It's about the Formula One of the amazing things that happened when I first met I G Bal-Championship of 1961, which was lard, who wrote the book on which won by Phil Hill, the first American to win the championship. He this instantaneous understanding of won it for Ferrari when his team- each other's art, even though we mate Wolfgang von Tripps was killed at Monza. It's really about grounds. I felt when I read Crash creative dynasties, about fathers that it was taking place in a strange and sons, and it's about car racing phantom North America rather Enzo Ferrari is a major figure in the than in Britain - the cars he script. So it's quite a different thing from my movie Crash. It would be interesting to play them on a dou-ble bill. They're almost like two sides of a coin.

old cars from the Fifties and early sents many things for him which are Sixties in events for old guys who couldn't afford those cars when they were younger. I am certainly a car enthusiast, but Crash is not made out of that part of me. The only part of the movie that came out of my car-enthusiasm side was when I was working with the stuntmen.

my back from motorcycle crashes. pening in London. And I have been in crashes in race cars. But a crash in a race car is a completely different thing. You're wearing a fire suit and a helmet. You've got a six-point harness. And everybody else on the track is a racer. There are fire marshals with fire extinguishers at the corner. There are no cars coming the other way because you're all going the

same direction. accident, which I have never had. But it all adds to your understanding and curiosity about velocity and impact, and I mean that emotionally as well as physically. I've never had the kind of crashes portrayed in the movie.

But one of the reasons for making the movie was to come to an understanding of what that can mean, what it can be like. Making the movie was my way of exploring those phenomena, including the one we all know of people slowing down to look at a traffic accident

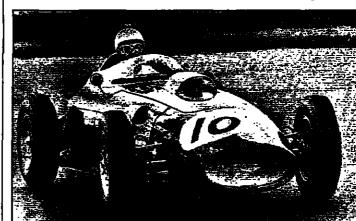
the movie is based, was that we had described were not Ford Anglias. They were 58 Buicks. That's what they felt like when he talked about the chrome and grilles.

North America looms very large I'm a vintage racer myself. I race in Ballard's imagination. It repreperhaps unfashionable. It represents freedom and expansiveness and generosity and open spaces.
When I read the book I thought of Toronto. That felt to me like where the book was happening, even though he does mention very specific roads and motorways near London. Ballard felt the same. He Have I ever been involved in London. Ballard felt the same. He crashes myself? Yes, I have scars on felt that spiritually it was not hap-

One of the things in the book I dispensed with was the Elizabeth Taylor element. Twenty five years ago, when Ballard was conceiving and writing the book, Taylor was a Hollywood icon. Now she's become an old lady who does Aids benefits. That's what most audiences would know her for.

I replaced Taylor with the James Dean car crash, which is not in the It's very unlike a serious traffic book. He was safely dead as an icon. untouchable, and I felt that was much more useful to what I was doing in the movie - the idea that James Dean died of a broken neck and became immortal. How do you die and become immortal at the same time? That was what I wanted to ask. Since then, of course, I've moved on - to other heroes: Phil Hill. Wolfgang von Tripps, Enzo Ferrari; and to other pursuits: the challenge of the racing track.

> David Cronenberg was talking to Geoffrey Macnab



The winning formula of Phil Hill and Ferrari

Alfa hopes to close up on Germans



ALFA ROMEO is gunning for the BMW 3series and the Audi A4 with its new 156 model, just unveiled. European sales start in October. Sales in right-handdrive markets, including Britain, begin in early 1998.

The car looks like being Alfa's best shot details include the offset front numyet at tackling the Germans in the big- ber plate, borrowed from pre-war Alfa

engine also comes with a six-speed

manual gearbox. There are also two dif-

ferent diesel engines, both using Flat's

new Unijet direct-Injection system that

selling and profitable European luxury smallcar market, currently dominated by Audi, **BMW** and Mercedes (with the C-class). The 156 is a curvaceous, sporty looking sedan that boasts three different, twin-cam, twinspark four-cylinder engines (of 1.6, 1.8

Alfa 156 and 2.0 capacities) and a 190bhp 2.5-litre V6. The latter

which is certain to be Alfa's best-selling model, can't come a moment too soon for the Italian company.

gives extra performance and economy,

pillars. This gives the 156 the look of a

coupé. The front door handles are old-

fashioned chrome affairs. Other retro

One curious styling detail is that the rear door handles are hidden in the C-

recent introduction of the 145 and 146 models. In 1996, sales in Europe stood at only 118,000. Back in 1990, sales were more than 200,000.

sports cars. Alfa intends to build 150,000 156s a year, more than double the rate of the old 155, an Driving Courses unloved car. The 156,

ommodation arrange For details phone: European sales have 01407 711391 been poor, despite the SAAB

motoring

Registration Numbers

Motorbikes

MOTORCYCLE SHOW SATURDAY APRIL 26th 1997 KAUTARI M.C.C. PRESENT A BIKE SHOW STARTING AT 12 NOON AT THE TREBLE CHANCE, PIPPS HILL COUNTRY CLUB, OFF CRANES FARM ROAD, BASILDON, ESSEX. 0800 323 626 Trophies all categories from wild to classic, from best paint

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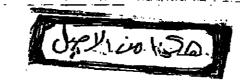
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business & city

High Court judge attacks City 'dishonesty'

Regan accused of 'iniquitous conduct' as net widens to 17 more companies

The scandal surrounding Andrew Regan's failed £1.2bn break-up bid for the Co-op widened vesterday to include 17 leading City financial institu-tions and blue-chip companies. They were supplied with confidential information stolen from the Co-op after what a High Court judge described as "inquitous conduct" on the part of

Mr Regan and his advisers. Details of the scale on which confidential information was circulated in the City emerged as the CWS won an extension to the High Court injunction banning the use of the illicitly obtained information. This had been provided to Mr Regan by Allan Green, the CWS controller of retailing who was sus-

pended earlier this month. Ruling in favour of the CWS, Mr Justice Lightman said: "I regard this as a quite exceptional case [and a] gross, wilful and disgraceful breach of confidence." He added: "It was inevitable that this bid would be stopped as soon as it was apparent that it was based on iniquitous conduct on the part of those making it."

Hambros Bank

Hillier Parker

J Sainsbury

J P Morgan

Lloyds Bank

Bankers Trust

He described the methods of obtaining the information as erator of smaller convenience clearly dishonest".

The CWS was also awarded the most punitive form of costs against the Regan camp. These are expected to run to millions of bounds and there will be a further claim for damages.

The CWS's QC, Christopher Clarke, read out in court a list of the 17 City firms which had received confidential information, mostly distributed by Hambros Bank, Mr Regan's financial adviser.

The list included Nomura International which withdrew its backing for Mr Regan on Thursday, Price Waterhouse, Goldman Sachs, UBS and JP Morgan. Also cited was Sainsbury, the supermarket group which recently called off talks with Mr Regan to buy some of the Co-op supermarkets.

The information provided was so detailed that it fell into 32 categories including trading forecasts, the board's budget for 1997 and the entire CWS membership on diskette apart from

those in Northern Ireland. In his sworn affidavit, Mr Green also admitted discussing with Mr Regan the possibility

How Co-op secrets were spread around the City

The companies and institutions who

received confidential CWS documents,

principally from Hambros Bank

Goldman Sachs International

Jupiter International Group

Union Bank of Switzerland

HSBC Investment Bank

Leucadia National Corporation

Lloyds Bank Registrars

Nomura International

Price Waterhouse

Société Générale

Healey & Baker

erator of smaller convenience store outlets and about possible buyers of the larger stores including Tesco and Aliders.

Appealing to the judge Mr Clarke said: "It is just that they pay now the cost ... for behaviour we consider outrageous." At a press conference staged later at the headquarters of SBC Warburg, the CWS's advisers, Graham Melmoth, the society's

chief executive spoke of a "cascade" of stolen information saying it was an issue that "strikes to the heart of the City". He said: "The City prides itself on its system of self-reg-ulation and demands high standards of probity and integrity. Those standards must have

activities of certain parties." Brian Keelan, the CWS' key adviser at SBC Warburg said: "The last week has not been a good one for the City. It is an ugly situation."

been called into question by the

He added that on Monday Warburg's had delivered to Hambros a file of information thought to contain details of the controversial £2.4m payment to an offshore company by Regan two years ago.



Justice Lightman: Scorned

to reveal the contents of the file he said he had expected Hambros to withdraw its backing for Mr Regan's bid at that point. But the bank decided to press ahead

The CWS has added Hambros and Travers Smith Braithwaite, Mr Regan's legal advisers, to the injunction banning the use of the confidential information. It is also pursuing private civil proceedings against both. How-ever, Travers Smith issued a short statement yesterday saying: "We will resist most strongly any claim which may be made against us." The firm believes that the theft of information is not included under the theft act.

The CWS is now pursuing the 17 institutions which received confidential Co-op information for assurances that it will not be used. It said replies had been received from some while others were taking advice from their lawyers. It said further action was possible. "We're not going to just sit back if another bid were to emerge that is based on that information."

Mr Melmoth said he did not feel triumphant as a result of the victory. He said the Regan "bid" would have a "cathartic" effect on the movement and encourage it to improve its performance and move its disparate societies closer together. Mr Regan could not be con-

tacted yesterday. It has emerged that the CWS has written to the Stock Exchange asking it to investigate whether any shareholders in Galileo traded shares in Lanica Trust with the benefit of inside information. In the letter it points out that confidential Co-op documents were distributed to Galileo's shareholders, including Jupiter Tyndall. A number of these were also shareholders in Lanica, whose shares were rising strongly on speculation of a big deal. Lanica's shares have been suspended since February. An announcement from the Exchange is expected in a few days.



CWS turns up heat on Hambros

John Willcock and Nigel Cope

The pressure on Hambros Bank grew yesterday as CWS commenced civil proceedings against the venerable blue chip merchant bank which has been advising Andrew Regan on his controversial takeover bid.

Mr Justice Lightman gave the go-ahead in the High Court yesterday for CWS to commence an action for damages against Hambros. The case centres on confidential documents provided to Mr Regan's bidding vehicle, Galileo, and his advisers, Hambros, by two senior CWS executives.

Graham Melmoth, chief executive of CWS, expressed his outrage yesterday at the way the documents containing highly confidential information, including minutes of CWS board meetings, were distributed by Hambros to 17 other institutions. Mr Melmoth said that "the documents have gone cascading

banks, which Hambros approached to provide financing

The list of 17 included several for the deal to buy CWS. Most declined to support the bid, but Nomura was about to complete a £1.2bn deal before it withdrew this week. Banking sources said Nomura had failed

dence of illegal activity at the

heart of the City.'

CWS were Peter Large and Andrew Salmon. A spokesman for Hambros

said last night that it could not make any comment on the affair now that legal proceedings had started.

In a series of devastating letters this from Graham Melmoth to Lord Hambro, chairman of Hambros, the CWS boss con-

around ... We've uncovered evidence of illegal activity at the heart of the City 9 - Melmoth

to receive assurances from Galileo about the provenance of the information on CWS. CWS is taking legal action against the bank as a whole, not the individual employees who

worked on behalf of Mr Regan.

cluded that: "It is inconceivable that anyone could have concluded that the documents had been obtained by legitimate means from a legitimate source.

Hambros continued its sup-

mura International to withdraw its £1.2bn of debt finance which finally forced Mr Regan to concede defeat.

UBS was approached by Hambros on 16 April to take part in the financing of the Regan bid. It is understood it received documents the following day. However, the negative publicity surrounding the deal deterred the bank from supporting the bid.

Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, was another institution on the list of names that had seen the documents. The normally low profile bank was moved to issue a statement vesterday: "Goldman Sachs was represented at a presentation given by Hambros and Galileo in late March.

"We decided immediately and made clear to the other parties within days that we were not interested in proposals put forward in respect of CWS. Doc-uments received were handed back to Hambros immediately Additional reporting by Chris around the City." He added: The main figures at Hambros port right to the bitter end. It when they were requested. "We've uncovered much evitat worked on the bid for was only the decision of Nother statement said.

Key figures in the abortive £1.2bn takeover bid for the Co-op















(from left): Andrew Regan; David Lyons, Mr Regan's business partner; Allan Green and David Chambers, both suspended as executives by the Co-op; David Evans, shareholder and former director of Galileo, Andrew Regan's bid vehicle; Lord Hambro, chairman of Hambros Bank; and Peter Large, part of Mr Regan's advisory team

Morgan pays £200m in compensation

Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management yesterday moved to close a chapter in the scandal surrounding the three troubled funds run by Peter Young, its maverick former manager. by promising that more than 80,000 individual investors in the trusts will receive about £100m in compensation.

Payments averaging about £1,200 per person will be sent on Tuesday to investors in the three funds, in which dealings were briefly suspended in September after trading irregularities were uncovered.

FTSE SmallCap 2295 67

FTSE All-Share 2112 15

whose savings were held in 250 nominee accounts run on their behalf by a number of life companies, incouding Skandia and Acgon, are expected to receive compensation worth a further £100m within the next few

The payments, to be made either by cheque or by topping up individuals' unit trust accounts. brings to £400m the total cost of Peter Young's activities being shouldered by Deutsche Bank, Morgan Grenfell's German parent.

Frances Davies, head of pooled funds at Morgan Grenfell, said: "The compensation will be paid on the basis of a for-A further 90,000 investors, mula agreed with Imro [the

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Source: FT Information

fund management regulator]. We believe what has been She added that some 70 per cent of unitholders in the three funds. European Growth. Europa and European Capital

Growth, had already requested

top-ups rather than cash The mechanism for paying compensation involves setting August 1st 1995 as the starting date for assessing redress. This is the moment identified by Morgan Grenfell when Peter Young began his irregular

Micropal, the specialist financial statistics provider. was asked to calculate average

fund performance to Septem-ber 1996 for trusts within the same sectors and operating on the same principles as the three affected Morgan Gren-

fell ones. In the case of the European Growth Trust, the flagship fund run by Peter Young, its growth was just 2.05 per cent compared to the average growth of the benchmark funds of 15.4 per cent over this period.

Calculating the compensation to be paid involves comparing the price at which investors bought the units and when they were sold, or September 6 1996, ife held to that

Losses between the two

prices will be repaid in full, Ms Davies said yesterday. Investors would also receive an "underpin" to their funds returning their money in full, inleuding the bid-offer spread on the investment. Payments would be topped up by an additional 6 per cent compound interest payable from September last

The payments next week bring to a close another chapter in the saga which severely damaged the credibility of Mor-gan Grenfell. Earlier this month it was fined £2m, plus £1.5m costs for a vast catalogue of regulatory offences that allowed Mr Young to engage in his rogue trading practices. | are at loggerheads over NIE's

Ulster watchdog rejects MMC electricity curbs

Michael Harrison

The electricity watchdog for Northern Ireland yesterday rejected new price controls recommended by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in a move which could have serious repercussions for utility reguation throughout the UK. Douglas McIldoon, the

director-general of electricity supply, said he was not minded to accept some of the price controls for Northern Ireland Electricity called for by the MMC. The regulator and the MMC acceptable levels of capital and terms of 14 per cent.

ed and could have ramifications for the way in which Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas reacts when the Government publishes the MMC's long-awaited report into price controls for British Gas's transportation arm, now known as BG.

NIE had proposed a cut of 22 per cent in certain of its charges
while the regulator wanted a reduction of 33 per cent. The
MMC findings, since it is effectively acting as a court of appeal, MMC has proposed a reduction the convention is for the MMC's of 28 per cent which will mean recommendations to be accepted.

operating expenditure. Patrick Haren, chief executive of NIE, warned that Mr McIIdoon's refusal to accept the MMC's ruling threatened to bring the whole regulatory framweork into disrepute, adding "It is not now open to the direc-tor-general to reject the MMC's conclusions and we shall resist any

attempt on his part to do so." Although regulators are technically at liberty to disregard the MMC findings, since it is effec-

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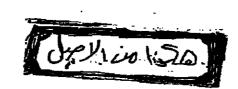
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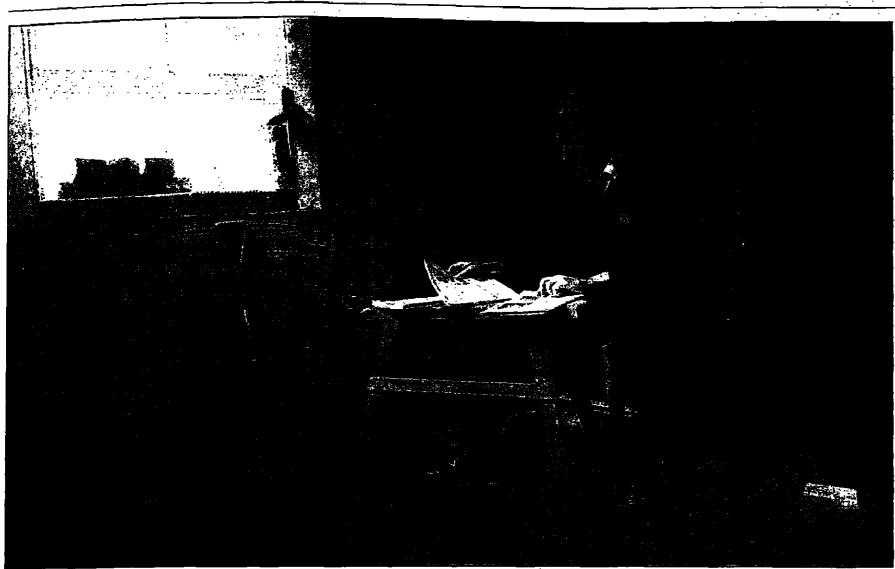
Peugeot increases profits to £30.5m

Peugeot Motor, the Coventryprofits sixfold to £30.5m last year as production reached record levels and its share of the UK car market rose, writes with 10.001 to 153,242. But Peugeot said the main factor behind the £30.5m Michael Harrison.

company delivered a vote of confidence in its UK operation by ap-

The strength of stering against based car maker, increased its the French franc helped Peugeot to sell more cars last year with profit - its highest since 1991 -The profits compare with the was the improved competitive-174m that the entire Peugeot group earned in 1996 and help explain why the French parent managing director, said he expected to increase sales further this year against a background proving a £100m investment in a of modest growth in the UK car new model this month. The car, market. Production is expected a replacement for the 205, will go into production at Coventry late next year alongside the 306.





Dirty work well done

stated to learn that she had narrowly failed to buy a derelict Vic-Atorian house in Shacklewell, north London. The three-bedroom property was not much to look at – plaster falling off, rot-ten windows, collapsed ceilings, a damp cellar, once beautiful rooms partitioned, bricks missing. "You wouldn't have washed your hands in the bathroom, let alone done anything else," she recalls. But the house retained many original features - cornices, wooden shutters and double doors in the living room - hidden under strips of ply-board, as were the spindles of the mahogany banisters.

A London property developer had also spotted the potential, however, and outbid her. The usual story seemed set to unfold. House snapped up for £77,000 is tarted up for fast sale and developer walks off with fat profit, leaving a bodged job.

But Ms Seccombe was in luck. oper, Martin Fitzgerald, doesn't conform to stereotype. Where you might expect a smooth charmer in a BMW, offering emollient smiles and a handshake loaded down by gold, what you get is a 50-year-old in a beaten-up red van with a load of timber on the roof rack and half a house in the back. Locals go so far as to say he is that rare commodity, an honest developer.

Indeed, such was Mr Fitzgerald's reputation that after viewing previous work, Ms Seccombe bought the dilapidated house from him within days of the original sale. But the price wasn't £77,000. She paid £120,000 for Mr Fitzgerald's promise to do his "usual job". Twelve weeks after she'd first seen the wreck, Ms Seccombe moved into a restored home, with replastered walls and ceilings, new sash windows, modern central heating, rewiring, and a new kitchen with French windows, created by knocking through an outside loo, a scullery and an old kitchen. "I could never have project-managed the work so efficiently," says Ms Sec-

year ago, Josephine Seccombe, a management consultant, was deva- Property developers are not all cowboys, writes Jack O'Sullivan



Martin Fitzgerald (top picture): a rare commodity

PHOTO: NICOLA KURTZ

combe. "And it would have been much more difficult living here through the mess." Indeed, using a developer worked out cheaper: she had budgeted to pay £72,000 for the house and spend £50,000 doing it up.

Her story is repeated throughout the Stoke Newington and Clapton area of north London where Martin Fitzgerald has cut a swathe through decayed housing stock for more than a decade. "There's one road which they say should be renamed Fitzgerald Street, because I've done so many of the houses," he says. "The last time one came up for auction, three local residents rang to tell me. They wanted me to do it up because it improves the street."

"Martin is an original," says Josephine

PROPERTY

THROUGHOUT ITALY

£41,000 bus

Seccombe. He appreciates these old houses, and his work reflects that."

So what is life like for that rare beast, a Nineties developer with a conscience? "We're making hay while the sun shines," says Mr Fitzgerald, who has seen prices rise by 30 per cent in two years. A recent sale tells the story. "I bought a three-bedroom place off the council last year for £98,500, expecting to spend my usual £30,000 on it and sell it for £145,000, leaving me with £16,500. We've just sold it for £160,000. On a rising market you make a bonus. The trouble is, you then have to pay more for

the next derelict house you buy.' The late Eighties and early Nineties

to 1988 and then went on a curve down-wards. The combination of falling prices, high interest rates and tax bills for the good years got us into trouble. We waited eight years for the recession to end." Though he avoided bankruptcy, there were dark days. At the top of the market in 1988 he owned, virtually outright, a huge, £350,000 Victorian detached house in Hertford. In 1992 debts forced him to sell a third of it off for £150,000 and remortgage, for £150,000, the four-bedroom remainder where he now lives with his wife and four children. "We dropped nearly 300 grand in the bad years.

It was enough to make you a bit religious.

"A lot of people left the business and went into letting, where you do up a place and bring in tenants. But that ties up your cash
. I like to be buying and selling. That way
you can respond to the market quickly."

The turning-point for Mr Fitzgerald was when Britain left the European Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1992. "We decided to go for growth," he says. That means developing a dozen houses a year.

"I like to think of myself as a renovator and an organiser," he says, standing in the debris of a recent acquisition. It has been cleaned back to its plain Victorian brick and the back wall is missing. The job ahead is like transforming a mouthful of rotten, filthy molars into a set of beautiful milk teeth. But it's a task that is becoming increasingly urgent. According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, houses built today will have to last longer than the Pyramids or Stonehenge, given the rate of building new ones.

"I like to have six houses on the go - two or three identified for purchase, a couple

being built, two or three being decorated." Holidays, he says, are difficult to take. "In a recession you're worried about not doing enough work, and when things are going well, you don't want to miss out on the good times." But this year he expects to spend a fortnight in Florida. "The wife's booked it. were rocky, "We made a lot of money up She's told me I'd better be there."

House hunting, fee and easy

or 18 months Jeremy Williams, a freelance advertising account planner and his wife Anne Hyde, a freelance photographer, became increasingly frustrated house-hunters. We were inundated with mail, wasted most weekends on wild goose chases, and our relationship became fractious." Mr Williams says. Finally they decided to pay someone else to find them a new home and they hired the services of County Homesearch.

The couple knew they were looking for a rarity – a rural property at around £100,000, within one-and-a-haif hours of London and indeed, it took another eight months to find the place they wanted. Bids were invited on the property, and a Homesearch agent, Douglas Fensome, advised them on what to offer. Last May, they became the owners of a twobedroom lodge on a country estate in Buckinghamshire.

Time was money for us," says Mr Williams. "It was a wonderful feeling to be able to let go of the reins, and we ended up with pretty much a perfect match to our

Anyone who has ever braved the rigours of the property market will know how exhausting and demoralising the search for a house can be. There are so many criteria to satisfy, and so few hours in the day to make the necessary phone calls and trudge round homes on show - most of which

are not going to fit the bill anyway.
With so little currently in the market-place, paying somebody else do the searching, while knowing that you will be getting the best possible deal, is an attractive proposition. Property search companies, which sell themselves on taking the stress out of househunting, claim to have expert knowledge of the market-place, and are confident of being able to get a better price for a property than the client would acting alone.

Typically, when clients approach a search company, an agent will come and see them face-to-face to get a feel for exactly what they are looking for, and within what price range. Once it has been established that the company can work productively for the client, a contract is drawn up and an initial fee levied. The idea is to ensure that the client is serious, but the amount paid is sometimes deductible from the final fee.

Estate agents are keen to deal with search companies because they know the buyer being represented is serious, and that good relationship means that firms often get wind of properties before they go on the market. The firm then takes the client to the very best places it has seen, giving advice and pointing out pitfalls. and, when the client has made a decision, the condition of the property is assessed. The final fee charged to the client for the service is usually between 1 and 2.5 per cent of the purchase price.

One of the most established search organisations is Property Vision, which has been finding homes in the country for the time-

starved buyer since 1983, and in London since 1989. Says director Charles Ellingworth: "Fifteen years ago, we did research which showed that people wanted advice that they just weren't getting from estate agents. Estate agents are acting in the interests of the seller. not the buyer, and we found that purchasers were prepared to pay someone to act on their behalf."

Property Vision will seek out properties starting at £400,000 in the country, and at £250,000 in London, with London property now constituting around two-thirds of its business. With a conjunction thirds of its business. With a registration fee of £1,500 in London (£2,500 in the country), and a final fee of 2.5 per cent of the proptee of 2.5 per cent of the prop-erty's purchase price. Ellingworth admits Property Vision is more expensive than other buying agen-cies, but the initial charge is returnable against the final

amount. Stacks Relocation, which was set up in 1984 and now has 14 regional offices, charges a £300 retaining fee, returnable against a final fee of 1.5 per cent of the purchase price. Paul Greenwood, managing director, claims to save clients money "not necessarily from the asking price of a property, but from what would happen if they were left to their own devices".

County Homesearch, established seven years ago by Jonathan Haward, now has 23 offices coun-try-wide, with offices in Singapore and Hong Kong serving expatriates returning to the UK. It will search for properties worth from search for properties worth from £75,000 up to several million pounds, charging a registration fee of £350 to "sort the wheat from the chaff". The final fee is equiva-lent to either 1.5 per cent of the purchase price, or 15 per cent of the saving made on the asking price - whichever is the greater.

Some estate agents will also act for buyers, among them Savills in London. Johnny Turnbull, of its Knightsbridge office, says: "A client who's been looking unsuccessfully for, say, six months, might come to me and say We get on with you - will you help us keep looking? I might then see a suitable place about to go on to the market, and if the client likes it I will try and get it at the best possible price for him." That, of course, constitutes something of a role reversal for the estate agent. whose job it is usually to make as lucrative a sale as possible, but agents do not usually ask for any money initially, and the final fee charged is only 1 per cent of the purchase price.

Meanwhile Jeremy Williams is in no doubt that using a search company gave good value for money. "What we saved on mileage." he says "we've been able to spend on making the house look exactly as we want it."

Property Vision: 0171 823 8388. Stacks Relocation: 01666 860523. County Homesearch: 01872 223349. Association of Relocation Agents: 01273 624455.

Scott Hughes

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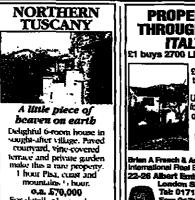
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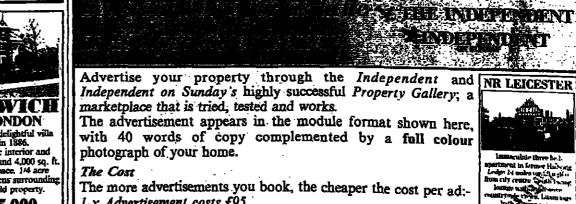


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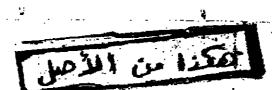
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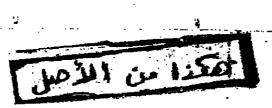
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Is it worth splashing out on a swimming pool? Penny Jackson tests the water

try. However, not many people actually set out to buy a house with a pool. The chances are they will buy despite rather than because of it, even though they may end up enjoying its use. Anyone considering building a pool should do it entirely for these these retires the state agents often find that a pool is a liability when it comes to marketing a house. They find prospective buyers can be alarmed by the maintenance because of it, even though they may end up enjoying its use. Anyone con-sidering building a pool should do it entirely for themselves, not as a future selling point. However well it is designed, the next owners would invari-

move it. "It was plonked right in the middle of the garden even though the house. It's a bit of an eyesore."

Nevertheless, with a young family it does get a good deal of use which makes the effort involved in maintaining it worthwhile. "You have to be absolutely sure the chemical mix is right, and of course you get leaf problems. We have strict safety rules, such

s temperatures soared over as not allowing anyone to swim alone, costs, according to SPATA, should be tend to be natural – and the fashion for or the children to go in without an ers came off across the country. However, not many peo-

costs and often express a preference for tennis courts. "A substantial country house does not have to have a pool to ably have chosen to do it differently.
Catherine Scales, who acquired a covered pool when she and her family moved out of London, would love to says Bill Dixon of Cluttons. However. even though there was a fall-off in the construction of pools during the recession, the Swimming Pool Allied Trade Association (SPATA), has seen the demand come back with a vengeance over the past couple of years. A spokes-woman said that anything which did not involve tens of thousands of pounds was selling fast. Pools can cost anything from a kit at £2,000 to £3,000 to well over £100,000. Maintenance

sance potential of pools, but has also noted that the imaginative design of swimming pools has increased by leaps and bounds over the past few years. Given that money is not likely to be an obstacle in a house where £50,000 might be spent on the kitchen alone, he has seen pools that would make anyone's mouth water. They can be sited in extensions that appear like conser-vatories or orangeries and to all intents and purposes they become part of the house. "Ideally, a pool should be appetising in winter even if it is not integral to the house. In period buildunlikely to get permission, I have seen some wonderful pools in old barns, where you find yourself swimming under rafters and beams," he says.

Pools in a garden setting are often more sensitive to their surroundings than they used to be, he finds. Instead of stone of a Mediterranean hue, they ket, people are not happy with a few lengths a day but want a full leisure

complex of gymnasium and pool.

This is a feature picked up, but with limited success, by property development companies. They believed that the fad for fitness would prove a big attraction when it came to selling new developments in London. Indeed, a private pool in a London has a pull that its country equivalent appears not to have, possibly because it is likely to be indoors. But some developers have seen swimming pools quickly become white elephants. Regalian, for instance, London's Docklands, but it has proved to be a real disappointment. In Kensington Green, Taylor Woodrow consulted residents about putting in a pool, but received a resounding no.

Linda Beaney of Beaney Pearce says residents rarely use pools. Those that do want to swim prefer the more

cony having dinner with the smell of chlorine wafting through." She sees gymnasia and tennis courts as the most popular way forward.
For those who see years of long, hot summers stretching ahead, and have

nothing worse that sitting on your bal-

the money and space for a pool, there is some comfort from the water companies. Southern Water does not include pools in its sprinkler ban and once the pool is filled, considers the amount of water used as negligible. But Thames Water is beginning to meter

there are alternatives. If transforming the plot into a rose garden doesn't appeal, follow the example of one Home Counties buyer who turned his pool into a sunken golfing range.

For advice about swimming pools contact SPATA on 01264 356210

Three on view

with swimming pools



10 Abbotsbury Road, London W14, has an outdoor heated pool in a large garden which backs on to Holland Park. The pool has an automatic roller cover for safety and to conserve heat. The detached, low house has six bedrooms, three bathrooms and, on the top floor, a large family-cum-playroom. It was built in 1936 in the original grounds of Holland House. It is on the market for £3.85m through Chesterfield (0171 581 5234) and John D Wood (0171 727 0705).



Frith Hall. East Farleigh, Kent, is an early Victorian house with gardens, paddocks and and orchards in more than 10 acres. It has a swimming pool and a hard tennis court. The six-bedroom house, with reception, drawing room and sitting room, has original fireplaces, shutters and cornices. In the grounds there is a detached period barn which could be converted. Offers in excess of £600,000 through Lane Fox (01732 459900).



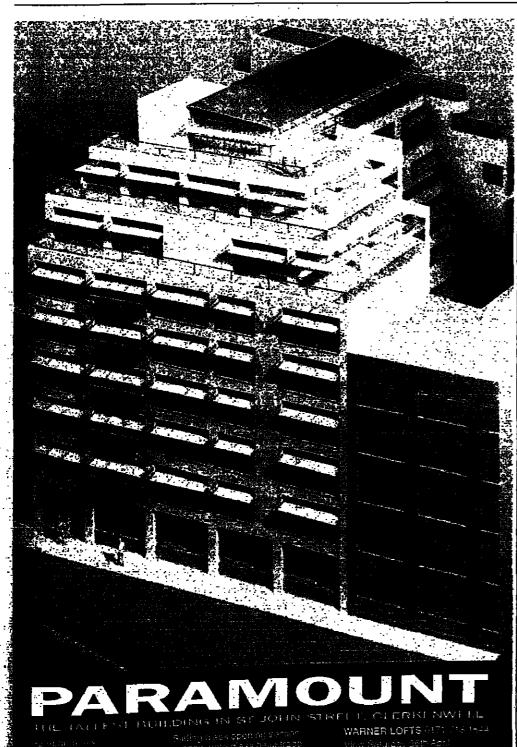
East Down, Paignton, South Devon, dates back to the Napleonic wars. It has a crenellated tower and is thought to have held prisoners en route to Dartmoor. In the 25 acres of garden is a pool, south facing and protected. The four-bedroom house, a haunt of Isadora Duncan, is priced £325,000 through Campbell Nicol Simpson (01548 857879).

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been taken out to provide dependents with some financial security when their loved ones die. But what if the policyholder is diagnosed with a terminal thought if we could offer someone the chance to live out their dreams in their last year of life.

Many terminally ill patients have problems coping with the expensive bills that often result from care and medical attention. To be able to receive some of the benefits of their life insurance policy when they need it could make what remains of their lives much easier in financial terms. And it can give them the chance to put their personal affairs in order before they die, or to fulfil long-held ambitions.

Brenda Ward and Tony Wright, featured on BBC2 recently, were in this situation. With Brenda being diagnosed as having only one year to live, they cashed in their life insurance policies and used the money to make the most of their and buying luxuries.

Life Benefits Resources is one of the three UK companies most active in buying life insurance policies from those diagnosed with terminal illness. Known as a

Ch The The the the

ife insurance has traditionally Life insurance: People who are terminally ill can holder is diagnosed with a terminal illness? It would be a comforting sell their policies, writes Marie Dyne

> "viatical" settlement - taken from the word "viaticum", meaning Holy Communion given to a dying person - this process gives the policyholder a percentage of the sum assured, usually up to 80 per cent, in return for waiving all rights to further benefits from the policy.

The percentage paid varies according to the type of policy and the life expectancy of the holder. The buyer pays the monthly pre-miums to the insurer and, when the original policyholder dies, the buyer collects the entire sum assured.

The market began in the United States in the 1980s due to the onset of Aids-related deaths. It remaining days together, travelling acquired a controversial reputation due to the dubious methods used by some businesses, including the deliberately slow processing of applications to delay paying the policyholder.

The three companies most active

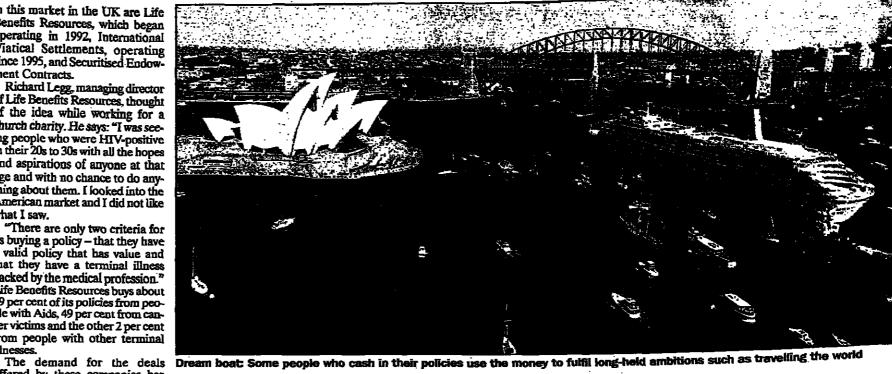
in this market in the UK are Life Benefits Resources, which began operating in 1992, International Viatical Settlements, operating since 1995, and Securitised Endowment Contracts.

Richard Legg, managing director of Life Benefits Resources, thought of the idea while working for a church charity. He says: "I was seeing people who were HIV-positive in their 20s to 30s with all the hopes and aspirations of anyone at that age and with no chance to do anything about them. I looked into the American market and I did not like what I saw.

"There are only two criteria for us buying a policy – that they have a valid policy that has value and that they have a terminal illness backed by the medical profession." Life Benefits Resources buys about 49 per cent of its policies from people with Aids, 49 per cent from cancer victims and the other 2 per cent from people with other terminal

offered by these companies has highlighted a gap in the insurance market, one which life offices then rushed to fill by launching terminal illness insurance which pays out either at death or on diagnosis.

Old critical illness policies



tended to cover only certain spec-ified illnesses, but the new policies applied regardless of the nature of the illness, as long as it was terminal and the policyholder had less than 12 months to live.

Paul Cowman, business development manager at Canada Life, said: "Insurers realised there was a need for a product that would offer cover for people who had a termi-nal illness."

pay the total sum assured to the policyholder, but most pay 75 per cent, with the remaining 25 per cent being paid on death to beneficiaries nominated by the policyholder.

Some terminal illness policies For further information, contact: Life Benefits Resources 0181 404 olicyholder, but most pay 75 per 5626; International Viatical Settlements 0717 801 0887: Securitised Endowment Contracts 0181 207

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Nic Cicuti

ith only a few more days to go before the election, this column should be addressing any last-minute financial issues that can still be addressed before next Thursday, based on the most likely assumptions as to who will

Hard as I try, however, I simply cannot think of much that is worthwhile left to do apart from cross our fingers. It might still be possible to

call a lender with an attractive fixed rate and negotiate an immediate approval on a loan. This

Best advice is to sit tight, cross your fingers and wait for the election to end

might be a wise move for some, given expectations of a likely interest rate rise after the election is decided, as long as legal and other fees don't outweigh any savings.

It makes sense not to lock into the plethora of two and three-year fixed-rate savings deals now on the market, particularly with some threemonth rates looking quite

But elsewhere? There's not a lot that can be done now or even in the weeks immediately afterwards. This is a consequence of the growing closeness between

new Labour and Tories on almost all matters related to financial decision-making. Taxes? No fear of that

fearfully strict Gordon Brown raising them, or denying us our most important loopholes to stuff a few more quid out of the Revenue's reach. Share prices? The markets

have already discounted the prospect of a Labour victory and any movement there is not electorally determined to a significant degree, although if John Major can pull off another term for his party, prepare for a short, sharp

surge in equity prices. Pensions, where the Tories are intent on privatising the state pension, is one area of difference. Perhaps the most optimistic punt, if you believe in the possibility of a surprise rebound by the Conservatives, is into utilities, whose share prices have lagged in expectation of

Labour's windfall tax. Even my words next Thursday) the weeks.

possibility seems so remote that it might be wiser to go for the National Lottery rather than invest in another Tory win.

Justin Urquhart Stewart. director at Barclays Stockbrokers, is among those arranging a lust-minute fixed-rate home loan. Elsewhere, he jokes, not even drinks company shares, which traditionally do well at election time, have shown

any great drive. Perhaps the best point comes from Roddy Kohn, a financial adviser at Kohn Cougar, in Bristol. He points out that anyone's savings strategy should be based on the long term, looking 10, 15 or even more years out.

Under such circumstances. world events, such as US interest-rate movements, or the future direction of Hong Kong, have a far bigger determining role on share prices than Thursday's election. The best advice is so (though I may have to eat to sit tight and wait for a few

Who would be a trustee?

Pensions: Stephanie Hawthorne looks at a dangerous job

amount you are paid is precisely nothing? Try being a pension trustee.

Trustees are solely responsible for running occupational pension schemes from 6 April 1997. They have terrifying responsibilities and face severe penalties for noncompliance. Yet no previous experience is necessary, nor are qualifications and training under the Pensions Act compulsory. And the standard rate of pay for this onerous job is nothing.

The first reaction of one trustee board

resign on the spot. Indeed, there is a danger that the severe penalties for non compliance (including fines and even prison) will deter people from becoming trustees. But Tom Ross of Alexander Clay is

reassuring: "On the whole, the actual role of the trustee is essentially little different than before. It is more strictly codified in a pretty bureaucratic way." Trustees' many duties include drawing

up a statement of investment principles, studying the scheme rules, the trust deed, the most recent actuarial valuation and scrutinising the assets and the members. They must see the pension scheme is

operated in accordance with the trust

ancy a job where the duties involve taking responsibility for potentially millions of pounds? Where the legal, auditing and actuarial fields. And Any training is taking and not by the employer. Getting things wrong can lead to massive court fines, legal bills and compensation orders

against individual trustees. The Pensions Act, which came into force this month, requires that one-third of pension scheme trustees should be nominated by members unless alternative rules are established. If employers are seeking to opt out, they must notify the trustees no later than 5 May 1997. A small when they learnt of the new rules was to number of schemes are excluded from the

> Buck Consultants a firm of independent actuaries and pension specialists, believes the introduction of member trustees "if badly handled, can lead to conflict within the trustee body, confusion, negotiation, mistrust and adverse publicity".

Rosemary Mounce, pensions and benefits manager at Geest, the fruit and vegetable importer, disagrees: "Member trustees are a great improvement, often better than management trustees who often are just doing it to get a rung up the promotion ladder.

"Worker trustees take their responsi-

advisers must be appointed by trustees a huge risk and may not be able to discharge his or her duties satisfactorily. Employers must provide member trustees with reasonable paid time for attending meetings and for training. If you are a trustee or advise trustees, insist that you and your colleagues attend courses. The February issue of Pensions World lists all

the major trustee trainers. As well as information on tax, social security and pension law, trustees should receive briefings on their own scheme.

Some schemes may use a professional trustee. Richard Thomas of Law Deben-Michael Harvey, chief executive of ture argues: "There should be an element on the trustee board that is independent of the company, the members, and the adviser and delegates."

Trustees should consider indemnity policies. These will normally provide cover for settlements or awards made by the courts and for legal defence costs.

For diligent and trained trustees, the rewards are great: a secure and prosperous retirement, not only for their fellow employees, but also for themselves.

Siephanie Hawthorne is editor of Pensions

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poll to disturb what otherwise appears to be a smooth transition towards a Labour government Even the spread betting market,

which attracts some of the smartest money, seems stuck in a narrow trading range as far as estimates of the outcome go, pointing to a Labour majority of around 70 (though I am told some shrewd money has been heading in the direction of backing the Liberal Democrats and Scottish National ists to do better than expected).

ess than one week to go to the

election, and disappointingly

we have had only one rogue

As an unreconstructed contrarian, I shall be disappointed if the actual result does not confound the oundits once more, but with no one of the leading exponents of the inside knowledge of any sort to call on, my personal ambition remains: the more modest one of surviving. until polling day without committing any money to the outcome.

As in so many things, however, the real bet that faces everyone this week is how much they are effectively wagering by doing nothing. For investors, in particular, the big unreserved question is whether, in voting for a Labour government economic policymakers, have yet



Jonathan Davis

they are also, whether deliberately or not, voting for higher inflation. This is a subject I have been chewing over again this week with Roger Bootle, the chief economist at HSBC James Capel. Roger is

school of thought, once considered dangerously wild, now increasingly influential, which says that inflation is yesterday's bogeyman. His argument, expounded now over the past seven years, is that the world is in the grip of some powerful forces which are wiping inflation out of our economic system, and which are far more powerful than most people, including the world's

The big question is whether, in voting for Labour, investors are also voting for higher inflation

realised. The danger now, he argues, is not that inflation is set to revive, but that we may tip over into worldwide defiation.

Although it suits central bankers and finance ministers to play up their own role in killing inflation, the truth is, claims Roger, that there are more powerful forces at work which explain why inflation has fallen so dramatically not just in Britain, but all around the world. He lists the growth of low-cost economic competitors in emerging market countries, the transforming power of computers and the gradual erosion of "producer power"

across the developed world. Deregulation, privatisation and



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Throughout the industrialised world," he writes in his book *The Death of Inflation*, "the old cost plus bureaucratic system of interlocking

quasi monopolies is collapsing." With markets opening to com-petition all round the world, and consumers everywhere in the ascendant, it is little surprise, he concludes, that inflation continues to fall faster and more durably than everyone expects.

One small but telling example is what is happening to telephone charges in hotels. Time was when the hotel added a huge mark-up to

the curbs on organised labour the cost of phone calls and turned adopted by many governments a nice profit. Now, when many hotel have also played their part. users have mobile phones and competition is driving down the cost of charges, those easy pickings are a thing of the past. Hotels have to look elsewhere for their margins.

Even the central bankers, claims Roger, are not immune: they have lost some of their traditional producer power too. Although Wall Street still appears to dance to a tune set by the Federal Reserve, the reality is that Alan Greenspan and his counterparts at the other central banks are now just as much followers of world-wide economic is no surprise that the book has not received a warm welcome in the central banking fraternity.)

When Roger started expounding his thesis that inflation was yesterday's problem, around 1990, he was greeted with incredulity, especially in the City. When he repeated the thesis in 1992, when Britain was bounced out of the ERM and into a compulsory devaluation of the pound, most institutional investors 'laughed even louder" he recalls.

The conventional view was that devaluation would import inflation again, as it had always done in the past. But miraculously, the opposite proved to be the case. Inflation is the dog that has so far failed to bark. In the UK, although the Government has failed to hit its election-day target of 2.5 per cent inflation, it is only a hair's breadth away from it, and this despite four years of steady economic growth

and a sharp fall in unemployment. Where are we now in the inflationary cycle? According to Roger. while the UK's inflation record is still remarkable by recent historical standards, it is by no means the most impressive performance forces as they are trend-setters. (It around. The latest data shows that do well to ponder the implications

per cent, in France to 1 per cent, and in Japan to zero. Both Italy and Spain have inflation under 25 per cent, while Sweden, even more remarkably, is experiencing falling prices. Small wonder that those who took Roger's advice and invested in European and Scandinavian bonds have reaped a windfall in the past three to five years.

Is the great disinflation game over? As usual, the markets are still fretting about a resurgence of inflation, but Roger thinks there is still more good news to come. He remains a bull of bonds, including gilts. But even he admits to having had some nervousness about the way that asset prices have started to rise recently in the UK.

Fortunately, sterling's strength is more than countering the inflationary threat for the moment, and that in turn should be enough to prevent a Labour government from doing too much damage, even if it

Longer term, the thesis of a lowprice world remains very much finances and future savings would inflation in Germany is down to 1.5 of a low-inflation future carefully.

An investment basket



High street shares: Rachel Fixsen peps up her shopping list

R ice crispies, semi-skimmed milk, bin above average. The spread between the liners, a building society account - price you buy and sell at is 5.68 per cent, says Graham Hooper, investment directions. and 100 Rank Group convertible and the annual management fee is 1.5 per tor at IFA firm Chase de Vere, in Bath. preference shares. Stock market investments could be just another item on your shopping list these days. On the high street, building societies now offer packaged equity products which are low-risk

enough to attract the cautious saver. Familiar names such as Woolwich Building Society, Co-operative Insurance Services and Halifax Building Society all offer equity unit trusts, usually through a

tax-free personal equity plan (PEP).

Halifax started offering its own PEPs in 1995, and believes it has tapped a new mar-ket, with its high street accessibility attracting savers from outside the professional classes towards equity investment. "The customers we have are often first-

time buyers of equity products and they do like the comfort and trust of being able to go and deal with someone they know and who in their eyes is tangible," says John Warburton, investment product manager at Halifax.

Halifax offers PEP investments in its Income Trust and its Growth Trust. These mance for convenience? funds have only been running for two years. So far, both have slightly underperformed their competitors, and fees are

cent of the total investment. Stockmarket Fund, an International Managed Fund and its Corporate Bond Fund. To make investing seem as simple as possible, Woolwich has a Stockmarket Card, which investors can use to buy and sell units and check how much their invest-

ment is worth at any time. Though linked to the long-standing household name, Co-operative Insurance Services has no retail outlets and operates through direct sell either by post or phone. It has three unit trust funds: UK Growth Trust, UK Income Trust and Environ Trust - the UK's largest ecological fund. All have performed better than average within their sector over the past five years, according to the financial information provider MoneyFacts.

Many other building societies sell PEPs, though most are managed by an insurer. It is easy to buy a PEP on the high street, but are you sacrificing potential perfor-

might be another product out there that's your fingers burned in the short term."

Mr Hooper says it is no coincidence Woolwich offers three funds - its UK that the performance of these building society funds lags behind that of the more established fund managers. According to MoneyFacts, a £1,000 investment in the Woolwich's UK Stockmarket Fund three years ago would now be worth £1,282.55. while in the Perpetual Income fund it would have grown to £1,402.09.

However, Woolwich says its fund is invested very conservatively. "It invests in blue chip companies. As a building society we've deliberately set up risk-averse funds - we don't like volatility," says Ian Jackson, operations manager at Woolwich Unit Trust Managers. The Woolwich feels it is in the savings market, and that goes through from deposits to equities."

But the outlook for the market is uncertain at the moment, with the imminent election and some concerns about how the economy is going to develop over the next six months, says Richard Jeffrey, group economist at merchant bank Charterhouse. "For inexperienced investors,

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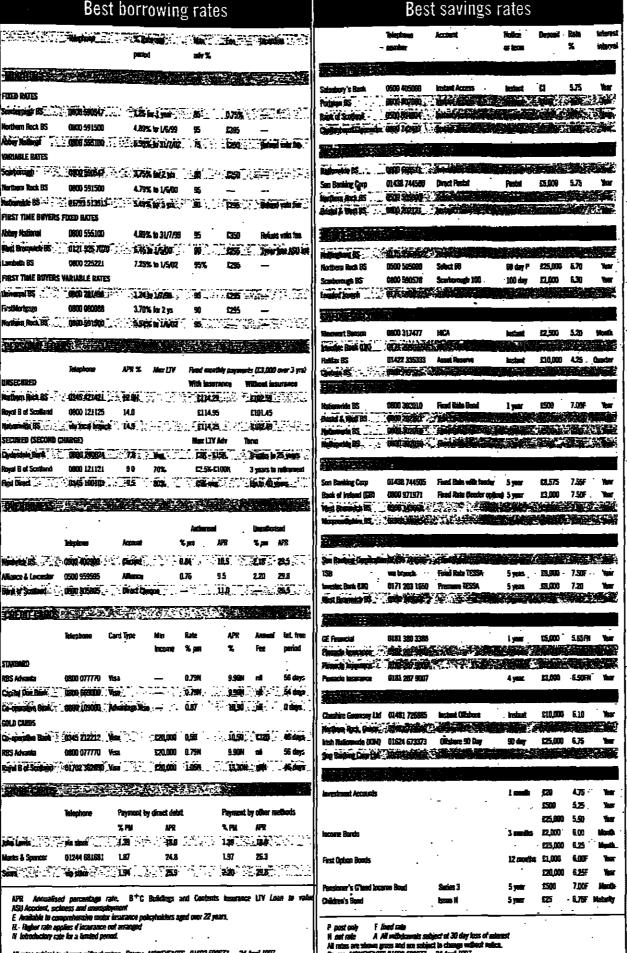
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Brian Tora

t is said that the worst kind of investor is one with 20-20 hindsight. You know - the person who iobs backwards. A member of the "if only" brigade. Looking backwards is a useful way of learning from your mistakes but too many "if onlys" and you may find it difficult to take any

investment decisions. One of the more acceptable "if onlys" occurred to me this week. If only two weeks ago I had decided to write about smaller companies, it might have made me look a whole lot smarter. I am not jobbing backwards. I was on television talking about smaller companies, so it would have been quite legitimate to turn thoughts for the broadcast medium into the written word. I had already written a piece about mutual insurance companies - they were in the news and I was busy. So it goes.

For those of you who missed the excitement, in the portfolio competition in which L sometimes reluctantly, take part on Sky Business, I bought some Proudfoot shares. What are they, I hear you ask? They are a rather bombed-but management consultancy. Into the portfolio they went at 12p. Now just two weeks

later they are 27p. Of course, I could not know Proudfoot was going to perform so well for me. But it all shows what can happen if you catch a smaller

company at the right time. Many years ago I bought into a transport company called Dawson Group. A small coterie of brokers bought shares at 27p. Before you could blink they had fallen to 11p.

One of us doubled up his holding. If they were cheap at 27p, they had to be cheaper at 11p, was his view. The rest of us bit our nails and hung on. At 40p two of

pen y Smaller companies can deliver huge rewards if you get the timing right

our gang of four bailed out. I did not touch my holding until they reached 90p, when I sold a quarter. Another quarter went £1 higher, a further quarter El above that. And the last of the holding was sold at a little over £4. That was when my friend who had doubled up started to unload his holding. He made serious money.

Of course, I can report disasters too, but part of the fun of buying smaller company shares is they can deliver huge rewards if you get it right. You have to be able to live with the risk, though. Volatility is higher, but by and large smaller companies perform better than their larger counterparts. I say by and large, because there have been periods when they underperform significantly. The post-1987 crash was just

such a time. Stockbrokers can be a useful source of information on smaller companies. The idea for Proudfoot came from our own head of smaller company research.

And here is where the wealth warning comes in. Corrections can be just as swift and severe on the down side as on the up. Many smaller companies have share registers dominated by directors or family holdings. This can make marketability difficult, so it is as well to remember that you may not be able to get out of your holding easily.

Smaller companies are for the seasoned investor. I shall stick to smaller companies rather than trust my luck to a handful of multi-coloured Lottery ping-pong balls. And, no, I did not buy any Proudfoot shares. Well, you would not want me accused of front-running, would you?

Brian Tora is chairman of the investment strategy committee at Greig Middleton (0171 392



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when, Unlike maney in a bank or building society account, which is relatively secure, the value of your copital, and the income from it, may fluctuate up and Unix Trusts should be reparted as a medium to large-term integrated. We suggest a minimum of 5 years. The leads and bases of, and reliefs from, langton their mallotiflay and value will depend on your included a trumstance. The FT-SE growth rate mentioned is from 31 December 1991 – 31 December 4 year termstanced is the Holdis Solid Gold 90-day account for leaver and basic rate law payers, 968 Hon-top pages may be eligible to receive gross PEP at 6.6% pa. [of 19/3/97]. Naturnal Vestmirater Bank Hit and Uniter Bank Limited are manufacts of the Natifiest Life and Matifiest Life. That Marketing Sucts only of that Marketing Goup. Naturnal Vestmirater Bank in Fic and Uniter Bank Limited are regarded by the Personal investment. Arbeiting and IMPIO. In this Marketing Coup. Naturnal Vestmirated by the Personal investment. Arbeiting and IMPIO. In this Honey Matifiest and Couples of the Internal Matifiest Life Couples (and IMPIO). In the Internal Matifiest Life Couples (and IMPIO). In this couple Impired Couples (and IMPIO).

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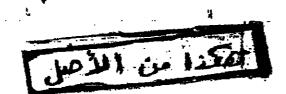
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Title Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms



to investments

Makeover: An optometrist needs to plan ahead

You cannot take out any further PEPs as you

are only allowed one general PEP per tax year.

transferred into a PEP and Capital House/New-

Over five years, I would suggest unit trusts.

I would recommend you hold the Birming-

ham Midshires Tessa for the full term to ben-

qualify for shares if Birmingham Midshires

ment and protecting your income, you are left

with about £260 to spare. I would suggest you consider a mixture of further PEP investment

and a good, lower-risk with-profit endowment.

ability to work. You indicate that you would

need a minimum of £500 a month to maintain

your standard of living. Income protection

insurance is vital. You are in a low-risk occu-

pation and the premiums are very affordable.

Friends Provident charges £14.39 a month for

a £500-a-month income. This is deferred for

three months and paid until your 55th birth-

to combat the effects of inflation.

£29.48 for that level of cover."

Finally, your income is dependent upon your

You have about £500 per month available for investment. After the increased pension invest-

which may demutualise.

decides to change its status.

Smaller companies can deliver huge reward

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Name: Sandra Small

in today's terms.

Occupation: Self-employed optometrist

The problem: Sandra earns about £34,000 work-

ing for a number of firms in the Midlands. She

contributes £75 per month to a personal pen-

sion with Equitable Life and has been con-

tracted out of Serps with Abbey Life since before becoming self-employed. Sandra wants

to retire at 55 on a salary equivalent to £20,000

Apart from money she has set aside for tax,

Sandra has approximately £11,000 on deposit,

a Tessa with Birmingham Midshires and is

expecting free shares from the Halifax and

Woolwich building society flotations. Sandra

has a Capital House Synergy Mortgage Plan

PEP which is run by Newton, into which she

pays £22 a month. A home-owner, she is look-

The adviser: Bryan Fisher is an independent

financial adviser and the financial planning

manager at Berkeley Financial Planning in

The advice: "First, your pension. If you require

your retirement income to be inflation-proofed

This equates to £495.83 a month. As you are

You previously contracted out of Serps

ing to move into a bigger house.

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you will need to fully fund pensions to your maximum allowance, which at your age is 17.5 per cent of your taxable income. a higher-rate taxpayer you qualify for tax relief at the higher rate of 40 per cent and the net "cost" is reduced to £297.49 a month. I would recommend increasing regular contributions by £150 to £200 a month, and then making a single contribution at the end of the tax year.

> (rebates) will be paid into this plan now that you are self-employed. Yourmust make sure your pension premiums sum upon diagnosis of one of a range of seriwill be met if you fall ill or have an accident

with maiver of premium facilities.

Now, to your investments. You have accumulated capital which is largely deposit-based at present. Although this is considered low risk, it gives you very little chance of capital growth certainly in the medium to long term.

The Capital House PEP is perfectly acceptable. However, I would be looking to increase considering some form of income protection, the investment you make of £22.02 a month. especially as I am self-employed."



new tranche of tax allowances. This one

also brings the possibility of a new government and tax changes in due course. So, can you still take sensible advantage of the variety of tax-efficient investments on offer to ensure that the taxman doesn't grab a sbare of your investment cake?

Well, if you are prepared to lock away your cash for five years, a Tessa is a must-bave". You can invest up to £9,000 over the five years and any interest received is tax-free providing you don't withdraw more than (basically) the interest from the account. Interest rates vary among banks and building societies, but are usually good. While it does not protect against inflation in quite the same way as a good stock market The Halifax and Woolwich shares can be investment, you won't lose it

ton are preparing to launch details of their own plan. Alternatively you may wish to keep one There are various types of tax-exempt National Savings of the shares within a single-company PEP. You Certificates: Fixed Issue may need to add some capital to meet the Certificates offer a minium investment level of some companies. guaranteed tax-free compounded return if held The sector I currently favour is the UK Equity for five years. Alternatively, Income. Providers I recommend are Jupiter, Indexed Linked Certificates GT, Britannia and Schroders. Alternatively, also need to be held for five bearing in mind your prospective house puryears and the return is chase, you may wish to keep a broad base of calculated by reference to a deposits, as you have accounts with societies fixed percentage, plus inflation (as measured by the retail price index). This offers a bit of the best of efit from the tax-free growth. Also, you may both worlds - the security of

a fixed investment, plus

all on a Black Monday.

Make sure the taxman doesn't get his hands on a slice of your cake

صكدًا عن الأصل

protection against inflation There are also Yearly Plan Savings Certificates - good for higher-rate taxpayers aiming to build up a capital sum with a fixed rate of interest. You can currently invest £10,000 in the fixed issue and a further £10,000 in the indexed-linked one.

For the more adventurous there are riskier tax-efficient investments. Ex-Chancellor Nigel Lawson is back on TV screens drawing attention to the PEP regime he created. However, this should not be held against it as an investment. All the dividends, interest and capital gains produced by a PEP are tax-free and you do not have to hold the investment for any minimum length of time.

Investment in a PEP has some of the risks of a stock market investment, though corporate-bond PEPs offer immediately higher income and less volatility. You can invest up to £9,000 - £6,000 in a general PEP and £3,000

in a single-company PEP. It can also make a lot of sense to transfer any free building society conversion shares into a PEP to avoid tax charges later.

Adrenaline junkies have the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) which offers substantial tax advantages to encourage investment in unquoted securities. Relief of 20 per cent on investments up to £100,000 with CGT exemption on the

disposal sounds almost too good to be true.

Drawbacks are the risks involved in investing in unquoted companies, that shares must be held for five years and the restrictions placed on the level of involvement in the сотралу.

Venture Capital Trusts are similar - quoted companies holding 70-plus per cent of their investments in the type of unquoted companies that would basically qualify for EIS and up to 30 per cent in other investments. They offer similar tax advantages to the EIS but aim to diminish the risk.

Probably the most taxefficient investment you can make is a pension. And while some would prefer to live their lives according to the "might be run over by a bus tomorrow" theory, population statistics suggest that buses are being driven more carefully these days.

Not only do you get a deduction for pension payments made into a personal pension fund, the tax-free lump sum on retirement is also free of tax. As your income is likely to drop on retirement you will also probably pay tax at a lower rate on the income you receive. It is generally not a high-risk investment in the cautious Nineties. whatever the spectre of the

Maxwell saga may suggest. Of course Premium Bonds and the National Lottery can be very taxefficient investments - no tax on winnings. But unfortunately no relief on losses either. This illustrates a wider issue: you must look at the overall investment return and make sure it is competitive. Tax-free does not guarantee the best

John Whiting is a tax partner at Price Waterhouse

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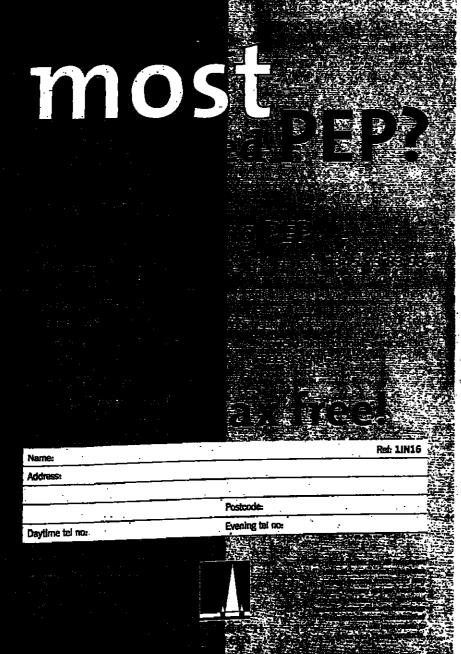
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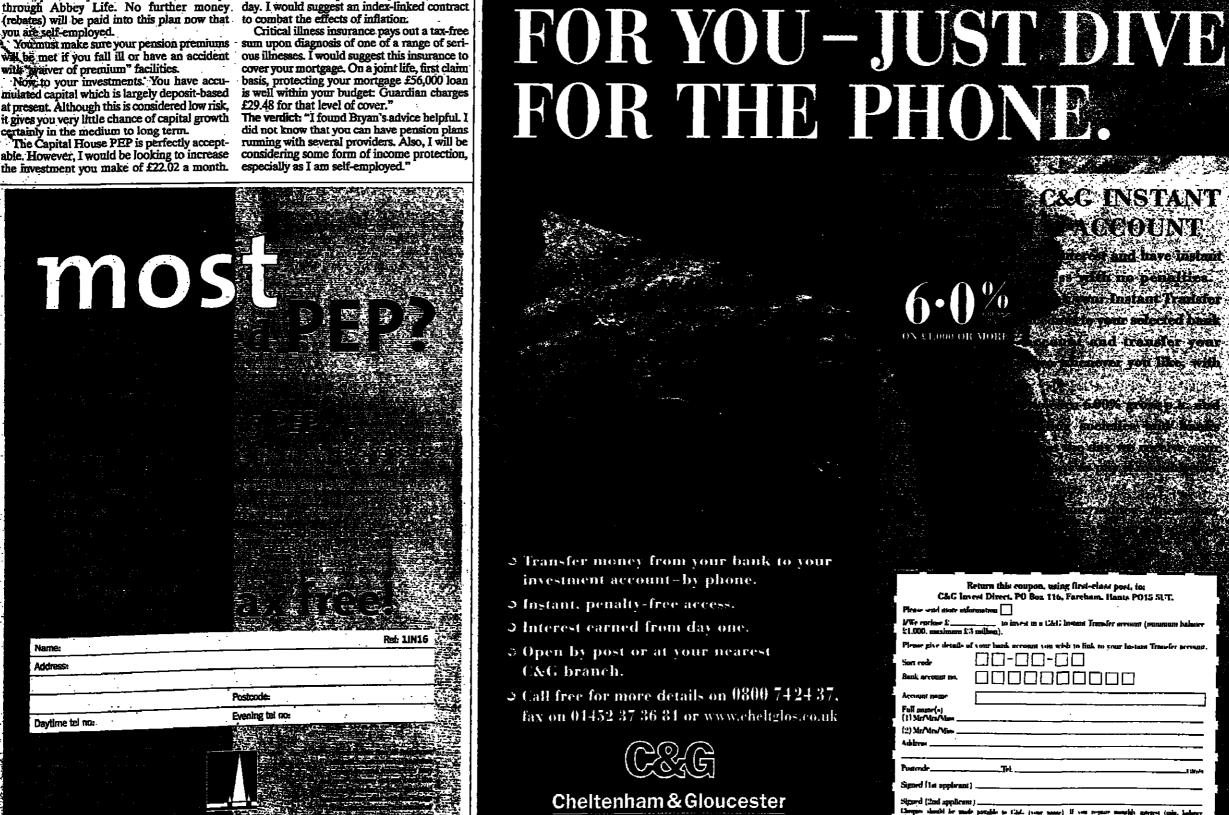
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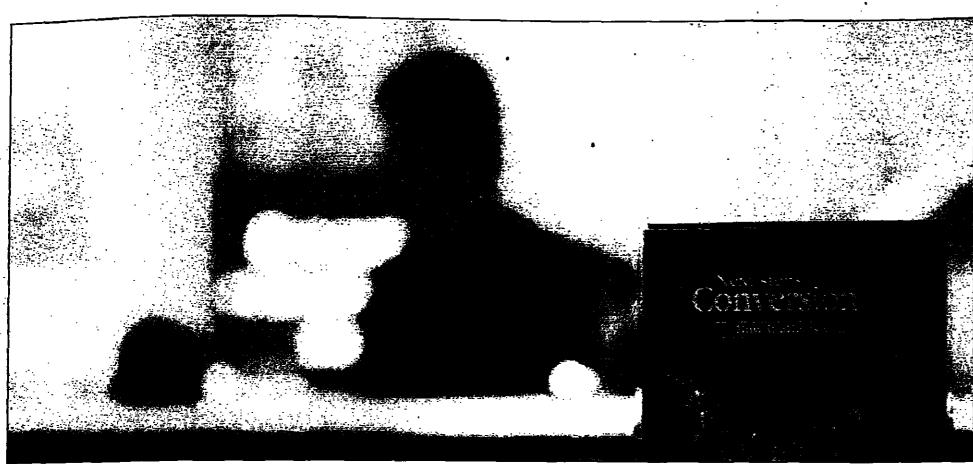
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What to do with the money

Free shares: Cash them, keep them or invest elsewhere? Neil Baker and Ken-Welsby look. at the options

mutual ownership may look on of which are mounting aggressive marketing campaigns aimed at windfall beneficiaries. a windfall as a bribe, most of the 13 million of us in line for a payout regard it as money for almost nothing - and are much more concerned about what to do with it.

If you receive free shares from one of the building societies and insurance companies that are shedding their mutual status, you have three choices: sell the shares and spend the cash, keep the shares as an investment or sell them and invest the money in

Cashing in straight away makes sense if you are in debt. This is particularly true if you have a hefty unauthorised overdraft or a long-standing bill on a store card or credit card.

In any of these cases the interest on the debt is probably going to be higher than the returns on an investment and,

For those who want to hold windfall shares for the long term, it makes sense to put them into a personal equity plan and so avoid paying tax on track record.

here's an old saying that you never get something for nothing. While the diehard fans of deals are available from fund managers, banks and stockbrokers, many

Building society watchers point to the success of Abbey National, which has seen its share price increase more than threefold since it was floated, although City analysts suggest Alliance & Leicester does not have such a great growth potential.

But holding on to windfall shares might not always be the best option, especially for first-time investors. The main attraction of a PEP is that any dividends or capital growth will be tax free. But having your money invested in company shares can be risky.

It is tempting to take a different view of the risks when the shares have been given to you for nothing, but financial advisers would normally say that you should not invest directly in if you have been struggling to keep up the payments, using the windfall in this way will probably add to your peace and the should also give your investequities unless you can build up a portment sufficient time to grow.

If you do want to keep your shares, do not base your choice solely on fees charged. Look at the PEP manager's can invest in a PEP each year, although these do not apply to windfall shares. But you need to make sure comes from Virgin, which will take in you can top up your PEP with shares

further windfall shares. "Many people are hoping to start a

you make the right decision."

Most windfall PEPs advertised are operated by fund managers, who see them as a sprat to catch a mackerel. They want you to supplement your windfall holdings by putting more money into the plan, either as a lump sum or monthly payments, which they will invest in unit trusts or investment trusts. This is a way of spreading the money untouched for a year.

risk, and is well worth considering. In some cases the fund managers will hold your shares in the PEP, while others will exchange them for units in their unit trusts. In this situation, you should look at the fund manager's per-

There are limits on the amount you funds have grown, compared with others in the same sector.

One twist on the unit trust trade-in windfall shares free of charge - not just into its normal PEP savings plans from other companies later in the year, especially if you expect to receive but into a personal pension plan.

If you do not already have a pension, either from your work or through PEP before the election, says
Lucinda Hines, investment research
manager for Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, one of Britain's largest groups of
put £100 into a pension plan costs you
only £77, with the balance being con-

If you do not want to take the risk of a PEP but are prepared to have your money tied up for a while, good rates of return are still available.

Fixed-rate bonds are one option: Coventry Building Society is offering 6.7 per cent gross until the end of June next year on a minimum investment of £1,000. You have to leave your

Other alternatives are tax-free, index-linked National Savings certificates, which currently offer 5.35 per cent above inflation fixed for five years. And there are still good old Tessas, building society accounts which formance. Unit trusts invest in a wide pay interest tax-free if you don't touch range of companies; look at how their your money for five years.

A crash course FISL in investment

Beginners: Neil Baker advises

hare ownership will She a new experience for many of the lucky millions receiving free handouts from building societies this year. Some of them will be heading for a crash course in investment.

There are currently 9.5 million shareholders in Britain and that figure is expected to double by the end of this year's handouts, according to Proshare, the organisation set up to promote wider

share ownership. Stock market investment can be mind-numbingly complicated for newcomers, but the mechanics of share ownership are fairly straightforward. If you own shares in a

company you have a right to benefit from its profits. The company's directors will meet twice a year to decide how much money they want to give to shareholders in the form of a dividend and when they will pay it.

About two weeks after the dividend is announced the shares will be declared ex-dividend. From that date on, you will still get the coming dividend cheque even if you sell the shares. About six to eight weeks after the dividend is announced, you will receive a cheque in the post.

Alliance & Leicester is due to pay its first dividend in the autumn. In the information it sent to its members it predicted that this would be 16.3p, although the actual amount will not be confirmed until nearer the time.

When you receive your cheque, the company will have already deducted tax at 20 per cent. If you normally pay income tax at the 20 per cent lower rate or standard rate, then you will not have to pay any further tax on the dividend.

If you normally pay tax at the higher 40 per cent

rate then you will have to pay an extra tax on the dividend later. When you sell your

shares you may have to pay capital gains tax although few people are affected. Any net gain you make on the sale of an asset is normally taxable at your

income tax rate. But you

are currently allowed to make gains of £6,000 a year without paying any tax. And any gain you make on the sale of your home or car does not use up any of your allowance. All the income and gains on your shares will be taxfree if you keep them inside a personal equity

To compare how well your shares are doing against other investments. you need to look at the yield. This is the dividend expressed as a percentage of the share price.

You can use the dividend the company has actually paid out in the past, which is the historic yield, or what you think it will actually pay in the future, the prospective yield. Because the dividends you actually receive are net of 20 per cent tax, you have to add this back on to work out the yield.

So if a company's shares are priced at 300p and it paid a net dividend of 22p last year you would say it has a historic yield of 9.2 per cent. That's a nice return - and far better than you would get from a savings account.

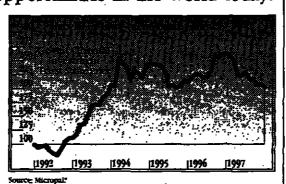
The question is, will it do the same this year? That's one reason why shares are a high-risk investment. The other, of course, is that the share price fluctuates in line with company performance and stock market sentiment.

If the market nosedives in the coming months, your shares could be worth less than they are today.

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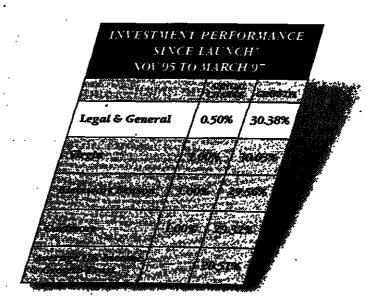
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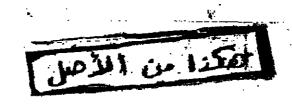


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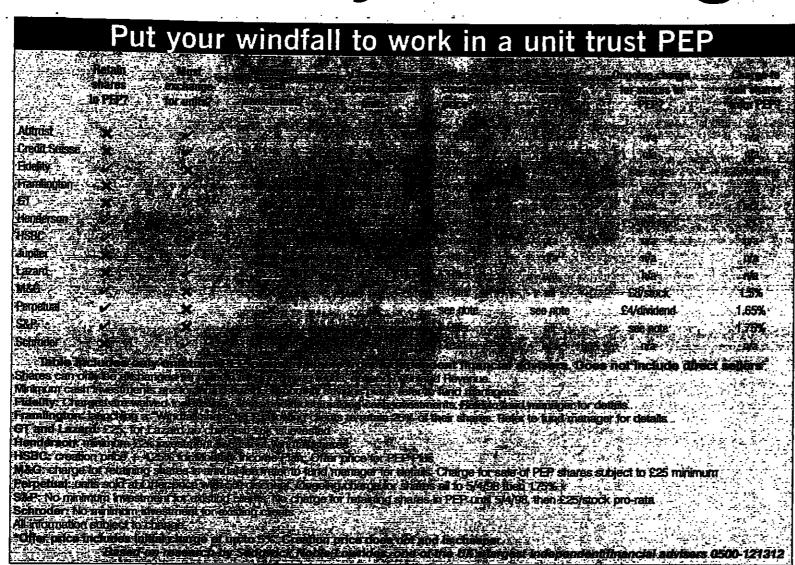
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share he best

THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND • SATURDAY 26 APRIL 1997

First, find yourself a good manager

حكة امن الأصل



or those who want to use their building society shares or other windfall as a springboard for a long-term investment strategy it makes good sense to put the shares into the hands of a professional fund

Most of the big names in the fund management industry have made special arrangements to take windfall shares into their personal equity plans, so that you can make money from them free of tax.

Not all windfall share schemes are the same. It's not simply a matter of picking a name you know, or one which advertises low charges.

You should think not just about what you want to do with your free shares, but also what you are likely to do about savings, investment and retirement planning - not just now, but in the long term.

PEPs are increasingly popular as a way of saving for retirement or for the increasing costs of higher education but it's important to remember that, as with all stock market investments, they are a longterm bet. Never forget that the value of your holding will fluctuate as the stock market moves: if you have to sell at the wrong time you could end up with a lot less than you

Fund managers handle windfall shares in one of two ways. Some operate PEP PEPs, it is sensible to look at £35 a month.

PEPs: Tony Lyons on what to look for

schemes through their unit trust operations, in which case investors will have to exchange their shares for units. Others operate PEPs through their general fund management business and will allow you to retain ownership of your

Retaining your shares means that you can decide at a later date what you want to do with them - holding them for the long term or perhaps waiting for a possible takeover bid to sell at a higher price than they would fetch today.

Whichever route you take, a word of warning: you must put new shares into a PEP within six weeks from the date of issue. This is a rule laid down by the Inland Revenue to safe- at the half-year stage as well as guard PEPs' tax-free status.

If you have received free shares in Alliance & Leicester, you must put them into a PEP before 30 May - and, to be on the safe side, you should make your decision no later than the previous weekend. The Bank Holiday could be the ideal time to sift through competing the shares as long as at least offers from the fund managers and get the form in the post before the deadline.

For those who are new to

what the general management groups are offering to see if they have a scheme that suits

Charges for placing windfall shares in a general PEP vary widely. To give some examples, Mercury will charge £15 a year while Fidelity will make no charge until 6 April 1999 and then charge £15 a year thereafter. Save & Prosper will charge £25 a year from the start of the 1998 tax year while Johnson Fry will charge nothing for the first year and 1.5 per cent of the value thereafter. M&G has opted to charge £8 a year for each set of windfall shares transferred

into its PEP. Other groups have decided to levy charges on the number of dividend collections they make - £5 per dividend in the case of Henderson, £4 with Perpetual and £3 with Skandia. But remember, most companies issue an interim dividend an annual one.

All the groups insist that windfall shares can only be taken from their existing PEP holders or those who open one with them. Some have set minimum criteria for new investors. Both Johnson Fry and Save & Prosper will accept another £3,000 is invested via their PEPs, Henderson asks for £2,000 or £100 a month, while Invesco wants £1.000 or

More than one parcel Multiple handouts: Tony Lyons offers advice

ight million savers will qualify for windfalls in Britain's biggest giveaway and many are in the happy position of benefiting from free shares in more than one of those converting from mutual status to stock market listing. For those who want to keep the shares, the converting companies are likely to follow the Alliance & Leicester lead and offer a free-of-charge shareholder

But anyone who is in line for a parcel of shares in more than one company needs to think carefully before deciding how to hold on to them The A&L ShareSafe account is what is technically known as a corporate nominee account; it is just for the company's own shares and the dividend

income will be taxable. For those expecting multiple windfalls, the most

tax-efficient way to hold them is to put them into a personal equity plan. Unlike the shareholder accounts, by using a PEP, all dividends and

capital gains will be tax-free. If you do not yet have a PEP and are tempted to use one offered by a converting building society, make sure it shares.

A&L is offering two plans: one is a unit trust, so your shares will be sold and the proceeds invested in units. The other plan is what's known as a self-select PEP: you can use it to hold shares in any companies you choose, provided they are based in the UK or

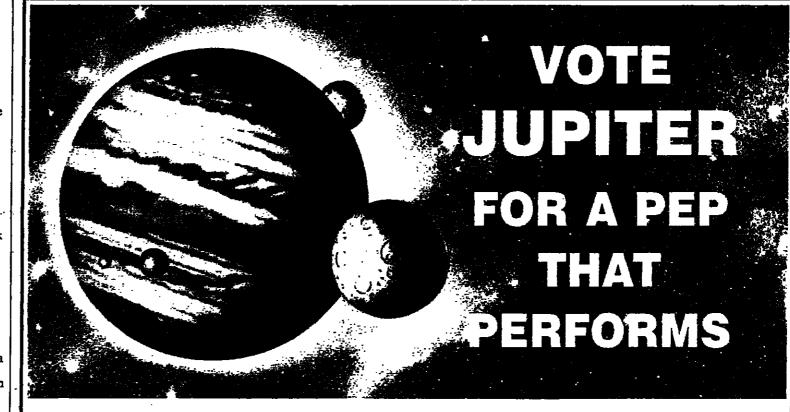
elsewhere in Europe. Plans of this kind are tailor-made for those receiving multiple windfalls and they can also be used to shelter other shareholdings free of tax. If you have any

privatisation shares, it may be worth adding these to the PEP pot as well and avoid paying tax on future dividends.

Self-select plans are offered by a variety of other organisations, with the newstyle execution-only Share Centre and ShareLink offering the lowest charges.

If you prefer to top up your windfalls with investments in managed funds, several leading PEP managers will accept multiple windfall shares, as shown in the table.

They will include them in their general PEP plans for a small charge with you retaining ownership. You can then decide at your leisure what you want to do with them, whether to retain ownership, exchange them for units in your other PEP investments or sell them.



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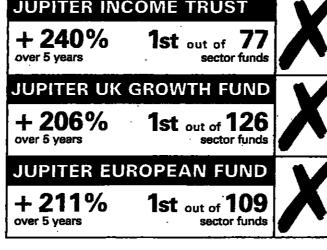
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As you can see from the figures opposite there's good reason to give Jupiter your vote. The five year record of our three largest fully PEPable unit trusts puts the opposition in the shade - all three have beaten every other fund in their respective sectors, more than trebling investors' money over the period.

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Learning to live with risk

Stock market: Ken Welsby suggests strategies for novices

stock market investment, windfalls could provide an ideal way to start. Shares in big banks and insurance companies are gencrally safe, so you aren't likely

or anyone considering 'But - and it remains a big money that you can not afford discuss investment strategy but - don't be seduced by success with windfalls into committing all your spare capital to shares. The two cardinal rules are to do your homework before you make a move - and never to invest in the market

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ents, and any income from them, can fall as well as rise and you may not on ba

to lose.

Homework first. Start to read the financial pages and, to make sure you understand them, a book or two such as Be your own Stockbroker by Charles Vintcent which explains investment principles and the workings of the market in simple terms.

Decide on your long-term goals, but be realistic about the growth you want to achieve, and the time you have to do it. Mr Vintcent, a London

stockbroker, says that many of his clients are in their late 40s or early 50s, who have been retired early from management posts in large corporations.

They need to make their capital grow to secure their old age. So they are looking to invest for 10 years or maybe a bit longer," he says."Then there are people who want to help their children - perhaps to pay their way through university. They may only have five or six years in which to accumulate enough capital. So they will want to follow a different investment strategy."

Next, talk to some stockbrokers. If you are a novice and - in addition to your windfail, you have substantial capital to invest in shares - you can opt for what's known as broking: you and the broker to retain your windfall shares.

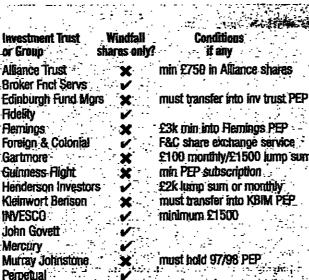
and ideas, the broker will give his views and you will make decisions jointly.

The alternative is to manage your own portfolio and use an execution-only broker to do the deals. Execution-only brokers are forbidden to give advice: if you telephone and instruct them to buy shares in XYZ they will do so - whatever they might think of its prospects.

It is essential to keep a close eye on your portfolio. One of the first points to remember is the distinction between longterm investments and shortterm trading. In the first, you are looking for quality - companies which will deliver solid dividends year after year. In the second, you are not concerned with the underlying to buy the shares cheaply and sell when the price has risen by a given percentage.

it makes sense to subscribe to one of the on-line dealing and information services, which can provide a wealth of market and company data.

Does all this sound too hard? In that case, why not put a toe in the water of the stock market with investment trusts. "dealing with advice". This is Although some insist on share the traditional form of stock- exchanges, most will allow you



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posters: An arty Eastern European effort (above) costs £350. Boris Karloff's The Mummy went for \$453,000

Film art fanatics

oll over Gainsborough, Reynolds, Turner. An illustrated poster for the 1932 horror film *The Mumrry*, starring Boris Karloff, fetched \$453,500 (£283,500) last month at Sotheby's New York. For that money, you could buy a museum-quality Gainsborough conversation piece in oils, or five or six good portraits by Reynolds, or a portfolio of half a dozen major works by all three.

The gruesome mummy image is not even an original painting. It is a mass-produced printed poster. What does such an astronomic price say about the market? Should you rush to invest or steer clear of a fizz-bang rocket about to crash?

No doubt about it, that price was crazy: not a reliable market indicator. It was personal, the product of a saleroom duel between two fanatical collectors. But there were still plenty of bids at \$200,000. The Mummy auction last month was ultra-buoyant: it shifted 90 per cent of its posters, 95 per cent by value.

This is a market sustained not only by nostalgia but by rarity. There are only two known copies of The Mummy. In fact, there are no known posters for about 90 per cent of films made before 1935 and only 75 per cent before 1945. A beneficiary who discovers in the trunk of a deceased cinema projectionist a poster for Disney's first Mickey Mouse film, Steamboat Willie (1929) or the first talkie The Jazz Singer, starring Al Jolson (1927), can expect a six-figure windfall.

American dealers will be competing at Christie's South Kensington in London next month for the only two known posters for any of the films made by Alfred Hitchcock in England. Modestly estimated at £6,000-£9,000 each, they are American Nourmand says his clients'

Collect to invest: John Windsor on why a movie poster can fetch \$450,000

for The 39 Steps (1935), starring Robert Donat and Madeleine Carroll.

The American dealers' twice-yearly foray to South Ken is a transatlantic mission of market support. They consign for auction there posters with British appeal and use the proceeds to offset purchases in the same sale of posters they expect to sell back home. It is known, in accountants' jargon, as "contra-ing". But an American bid of £20,000 for the Hitch-

cocks would surprise nobody. Tony Nourmand is chief aficionado of the London film poster market - a con-sultant for South Ken for four years, who launched his own film poster gallery in

London two years ago. Walk into Nourmand's gallery in Great Marlborough Street, west London, and you will immediately acquire a market sense. There is no Disney, no Elvis (Americans want Disney, nobody wants Elvis). But there is plenty of Bogart, plenty of Madeleine Carroll and Audrey Hepburn, plenty of Ealing comedy - and a plethora of Italian-language Bogarts

with moody deep blue backgrounds. Collectors still want the famous title, Casablanca, and the star's face, Bogart, but they have also become artistically discriminating. Language is no barrier. Italian and French artwork is preferred to

"wants" list is headed by two requests for the Italian Casablanca (1942). He could sell them for £25,000 each and be happy to turn a profit of 10-15 per cent. "If some-one spent \$453,500 on The Munum, then Casablanca has got to be undervalued. I think that so many of these prices we are seeing are still incredibly cheap.

His gallery is offering the French poster

of the film noir Key Largo - Bogart, Barall, Edward G Robinson - for £2,750. The artwork, showing the faces of all three, is

Horror? The rarest, most sought-after Hammer poster, showing Christopher Lee in neck-biting mode in Dracula (1958) is estimated by Nourmand at £3,000-£5,000 at its auction debut at South Ken next month. "I would look anybody in the eye who paid £10,000 for it," he says, "and tell them they had a good buy".

The trendy, arty Eastern Europeans look good little earners. They added the image of a woman masturbating (not in the film) to their poster for Blow Up (Redgrave, Hemmings, 1966). Nourmand's gallery is offering it at £350.

The Japanese have started buying. They want nothing pre-Sixties and go for Clint Eastwood, Steve McQueen, and Italian and French posters - Goddard, Truffaut. "Never mind what you like," I told a young couple touring Nourmand's gallery, "buy what the Japanese are buying." They left before I could offer an apology.

Auction of vintage film posters: Christie's South Kensington, Monday 19 May (2pm) (0171-581 7611). Tony Nourmand, Reel Poster Gallery, First Floor, 22 Great Muriborough Street, London W11V (0171-734

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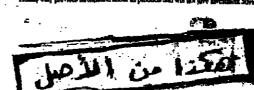
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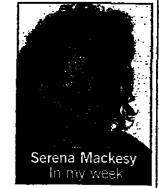
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Con arrest on Alberta

The contrast. with doctorlawyer-land is just too great: most of the people here look as though washing themselves is an effort, let alone

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their clothes

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with a sweet little dished face. The mare's hooves are unshod, and sport cracks wide enough to lose a penny in. Nonetheless, with that optimism ponies drum up in the most thistle-fed of circumstances, she continues to poke her head through the bars of the gate and greet each grimy brat who offers her a bit of old hot dog roll.

Old girl, who actually can't be more than 40, roughly the same age as her acrylic sweater, addresses her companion, a Pictish redhead with a pushchair. "I hope," she says,

each other. And the kids and all." Only she doesn't say that, because she contrives to cram five - count them, five - uses of the f-word into two sentences. Pictish companion clears her nose with a hefty influx of breath. "I hate her," she observes,

and those Anglo-Saxonisms are an important part of her self-expression as well, "She's a stupid cow." Such is Southall borse market, a metropolitan tradition

about to celebrate its 300th year, auctioning the paupers and failures of the equine world to the ugliest examples of the human. You know those skinny skewbald nags you see, nosing the ragwort, from your train window? This is where they come from, where they go to, where, ultimately, they reach the end of the line. Here, opposite the cop shop, among a forest of sagging roof beams, corrugated iron and discount furniture warehouses, you can change from a ton.

It's been one of those days where you keep feeling you've stepped off an aeroplane. Southall is a bit like that: a minutes by train from central etched in black, dachshund on Thursday.

DAMIEN HURTS.... and his painfully creative strugg

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"here's an old girl next to London but thousands of miles bodies on bowed, foreshortus, glumly studying a away emotionally. It's not Welsh Mountain mare Asia, though the area is a sweet little dished face. scattered with Hindu God shops, spice shops, silk shops, pillow-sized sacks of basmati, chaat houses and shops selling piles of sequinned open-toed

Claire and I have spent a lovely afternoon collecting plastic bagfuls of cloth embroidered red silk, green. brocade, silver lycra velvet, yellow and pink mimosa print. and more Imeldas to swell our shoe racks. We've lunched on chickpeas and pancakes and little heaps of grated coconut, and had a nice chat about "she doesn't go back to him or herbal medicine with the they'll probably kill

owner of the restaurant. Walking eastwards along the High Street, we've turned up the alleyway marked in the A-Z as a market, and it's been like stepping into the country where everyone marries their

The contrast with doctorpeople here look as though washing themselves is an effort that's beyond them, let alone washing their clothes. There is the odd flat-capped, tweedjacketed countryish old boy fence, the occasional face that would look great on a poster buy yourself a pony to keep on for the gypsy-caravan holiday the allotment and still have idyll, but most of the men droppings and pursing their lips at the RSPCA inspectors obviously share bloodlines with Fred West: mops of frizzy hair little country all of its own 10 over faces whose creases are

HAVE RETURNED UNHARMED THAT I AM AN ESCAPED

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I TOLD YOU I WAS SEFTER

ened legs.
"Good God," says Claire, "where do all these people come from?" I know what she means. The last time I saw this many ugly people in one place was in the villages around Wadi Rhum, but at least the Bedonin have thousands of years of relative isolation to explain their appearance. Where these people hide in the big city is a mystery: you certainly never see them in groups, not even at football matches. Everyone shows signs of inherited disorders: underhanging jaws and overhanging jaws, missing teeth, watery blue eyes, unnat-urally large hands, bum-fluff

coating lips and jaws. The scene has the greyness of a Pathé newsreel film of life in the East End before wartime food rationing improved British diet beyond

all recognition. A couple of tiny ponies in a stall with a larger piebald start squealing and kicking, and a crowd gathers, faces

lit up with the pleasurable prospect of a free cockfight. The auctioneer takes to his tiny brick booth, switches on the sound system and starts taking bids as horses and ponies, broken-down ones, unbroken ones, ungroomed ones, are whipped and slapped into lawyer-entrepreneur-land is trotting out. Prices go up in iust too great: most of the increments of £1 and £2; a little palomino gelding goes for £62, a spotted colt for £77, a Shetland mare and foal for £190. And I really, really want to leave, to close my mind to the depressing thought that, in leaning contemplatively on a the end, if you're born poor enough, or ugly enough, or unlucky enough in this country, you still have little more chance of improving your lot, strutting among the piles of of escaping cuffs and cusses and the prospect of being sold and sidelined, than you did back in the days when this market first came into being. Remember that when you vote

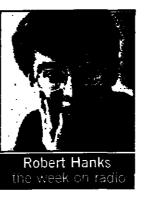
The politics of dodging

hat's become clear over this election is the sheer futility of political interviewing today: rather like bacteria that have developed resistance to antibiotics, politicians have become immune to interviewers' techniques. Peter Mandelson offered a fine demonstration of the new indifference on David Starkey's show on Talk Radio on Sunday, combating Dr Starkey's gleefully partisan and intellectually engaged jabs and scurries with a display of weary good manners - "If you'll allow me to finish...

صكدًا من الأعل

please let me answer the ques-tion you've asked..." - which bore little relation to the actual pattern of the conversation. Phone-ins are supposed to

get round this sort of thing. The theory behind the political phone-in is, I take it, that while politicians will feel free to ignore questions put to them by professional journalists, they can't do this to members of the public: here, at last, they will be on the spot. This idea is fuelled by the lovely memory of Mrs Thatcher



squirming as a housewife interrogated her over the sinking of the "Belgrano". Sadly, though, it no longer works. The most skilfully evasive exchange of the election so far came when Gary from London called Dr Starkey to ask Peter Mandelson what had happened to the word "socialist", which he couldn't track down in Labour's manifesto. Well, Mr Mandelson replied, all Labour's values underpinned the manifesto. The conversation continued:

Gary: But are they socialist

important is that, at root, we have certain core beliefs and certain values which have driven us throughout our achievements throughout this century and will continue to do so as we go into the next.

ues have always been socialist. Are they socialist now? PM: If I didn't subscribe to these values, Gary, I wouldn't

Gary: And those core val-

be in the Labour Party. Gary: Well, it's not a difficult question, is it? Are you a

PM: I am a member of the Labour Party and I subscribe to the values and beliefs on which our party is founded. I am not interested in bandying around labels or name-calling.

Did you spot the deft way he inserted a "these" where we would have expected a "those" ("If I didn't subscribe to these values, Gary..."), thereby making it impossible to pin down exactly which values he was referring to?

In the end, though, this sort of virtuosity is counter-productive - you can tell he's just

PM: You can apply what-ever label you like, what's showing off. Michael Howard has a rather better technique. showing off. Michael Howard which he brought into play on last Monday's Election Call. Again, he failed to answer the precise point put - for instance, defending stoutly the government's policy on mandatory sentencing without actually mentioning the issue of diminution of judicial independence. which was what the caller had been cross about. But he prefaces the evasion with a few words of anxious regret; "I'm sorry you feel that way...

Something odd has hap-pened here, which has less to do with politics than with the way we think radio works. Politicians no longer address the person they are supposedly talking to; instead, their remarks are aimed past them. at some notional fluating voter who might be listening in. Listening to most phone-insut the moment is like being at a party, where the person you're trying to talk to is constantly looking over your shoulder to see who else has come into the room. No wonder so many people are heading off to find

Want a safe job? Apply for pontiff

wo new findings came to light this week. One. Manchester United must spend about £20m on a competent centre forward to advance any further than the UEFA Champions League Semi-Final - Live (ITV, Wed)... Two, the average viewer watches three-and-a-half hours of television a day. That's the equivalent of two semi-finals an evening, incor-porating half-times. Or seven editions of The Rock and Goal Years (ITV, Wed), a clips' show cynically scheduled to inherit the Champions League audience. Or 42 screenings per diem of the Party Election Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (all channels, Wed), the one with two fat old went to Rome to inspect the list coves playing football. Never of men who would be pontiff. party, like the third channel, doesn't know what the people want: the bitter pill of propaganda was coated in the sugar

While the election coverage limps towards its endgame, just about every documentary on television has been thematically scheduled to ask the topical question: what does it take to hold down a top job? In the Sack Race (BBC2, Sat) Alan Hansen wondered what kind of pressure junkie would fancy managing a football club. Shoot Out In Swansea: The

of a footballing metaphor.



Making of Twin Town (BBC2, Sat) was a frank analysis of the febrile monomania required of the debutant film director. And Everyman (BBC1, Sun)

ingly little daylight between the three vocations: they all call for blind faith in your own vision, and a discipular following to implement it. The Pope ultimately differs from football managers and film directors only because he doesn't have to worry about being fired or going over budget. Everyman yielded a wonderful adjective to describe those who are considered eligible for the papacy. "Papa-bile" literally translates as "popeable", and it should be

put on a fast track into the

AA Roadwatch

rosh-bour delays.

M621 and Devsbury Road.

works. Diversions.

English language forthwith. phones in the conclave, so No word does a better job of discreetly measuring suitability for public leadership. As in is Tony Blair popeable? Every time the parliamentary Conservative party selects

a new leader - and that'll be

the next ballot paper it puts an "X" on after Thursday - it is routinely described as the most saturnine electorate in the world. But for sheer opacity of intention and convolution of motive, the Tory party hasn't a patch on the conclave of cardinals which chooses the Pope. So secret is their electoral procedure, apparently, that cardinals are frisked for mobile been invented when they all Paul II: this electorate is so sophisticated its members would have got round that

one in a jiffy. So unreadable are the runes in a papal election that the few certainties are best explained, Lib Dem style, via a footballing metaphor. Thus it is that an African cardinal has as much chance of becoming Pope as an African team does of winning the World Cup: slender, but imaginable. And, as with the US football team, no American cardinal has a prayer.

Like the ban on mobile

serious is the British addiction to the small screen that some voters this Thursday are apparently reluctant to enter the polling station without their televisions. There was a documentary this week called Interview with a Zombie (C4, Sun) about a Haitian who has been legally declared undead. For some viewers it must have been like catching sight of themselves in the mirror.

Others saw Interview with a

Zombic listed and promptly

phoned Channel 4 to complain that this was a Prime Ministerial broadcast too far. But in a phones before they enter the exchanges of sterile name-callvoting chamber. No matter ing and distorted by the refusal that mobile phones hadn't of either main party to let its female front benchers anyyou do have to applaud the Conservative leader for one outstanding act of restraint. He may have told you more about what Labour did in power before 1979 than what he would do in power after 1997, but he has nobly resisted the temptation to campaign on the Liberals' dismal record when last in government. It was only two wars ago, after all (the First and Second World Wars), just like Labour's last regime (the Falklands and Gulf). Is John Major popeable? Is he, my (left) foot.

Whatever happened to? British middle-

n the golden summer of 1979, Sebastian Coe breaks three world records in six weeks, leaving fields and superlatives trailing in his wake. He completes the final lap of his final record at 1500m in glorious isolation for a time of 3 minutes 32 seconds. During the following gold-medalled summer at the Moscow Olympics, Steve Ovett comes first in the 800m, Coe second, before himself winning the 1500m. Britain rules the middle-distance world.

YOUR ARTISTIC TALENTS

ENABLING YOU TO PROCEED

WITH YOUR WORK.

Coe and Ovett often refuse to compete against one another, so we never really know who is the best. Meanwhile, along comes Steve Cram to steal their thunder with victory over Said Aouita and a world

Neil Kerber

THE BAD NEWS IS

MENTAL PATIENT WHO

IMPERSONATES ANALYSTS.

Success continues at the European championships of 1986 as, like "three Spitfires coming out of the sun" (The Telegraph), Cram, Coe and Tom McKean make a clean sweep of the medals in the 800m. The Matthew Yates, for instance, is good but future of British middle-distance running he's never going to break a world record."

But at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics not one Briton reaches the 1500 final - for the first time since 1960. Cram, prevented from competing by Matthew Yates, whose time for the mile is over four minutes, draws his own conclusions: "The ones who have come through are not up to standard.

Then, in September 1993, Noureddine Morceli takes two seconds off Cram's world mile record - down to 3:44.39 - in Rieti, northern Italy and the African domination of middle-distance running begins. Though Roger Bannister claims an unfair advantage for black runners "of genetics and upbringing".

The balance of power in British athletics shifts to shorter distances with Linford Christie and Sally Gunnell winning world, European and Olympic titles. Coe, now a Tory MP, believes it is down to the lack of "decent PE teachers" - rather than funding. But, as the British 1500m champion. John Maycock (who he?) commented last month, "People think: '1500 m? We used to be good at that... We're crap now."

distance running WEATHER

8:25pm to 5:50am

8.30pm to 5.43am

8-32cm to 5-35am

to 5:43em

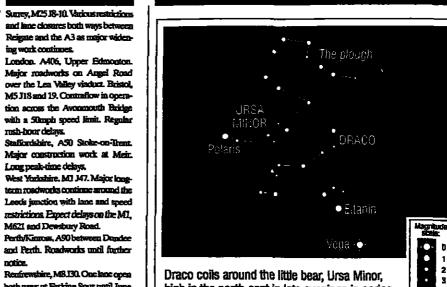
General Summary and Outlook:

Northern and eastern Scotland should be mostly fine with hazy sunshine, especially at first. South-west Scotland should start dry but thickening cloud will bring light rain later. Northern Ireland will be cloudy with patchy rain early and late. Meanwhile much of England and Wales will start grey and damp and it will probably stay that way in the north and east. The south and west should brighten up for a time, but more rain will reach the West Country and south Wales.

Tomorrow, most of England and Wales will become bright for a time, but rain will spread quickly north-east in the afternoon to reach all areas by the end of the day. Northern Ireland should start dry but it will turn wet later. Scotland will be mostly cloudy, and heavy rain will spread from the south-west later in the afternoon and overnight. On Monday and Tuesday a brisk westerly flow will cover the country, bringing a mix of sunny spells and showers.

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The Sky at Night

high in the north-east in late evenings in spring. both ways at Easking Spur until June Aberdeen City. Queen Elizabeth Bridge closed northbound for roadky-watchers of many

Out and about with AA Road-watch call 0336 401 to least local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls, charged at 50p per min et all trings and VAI.

different cultures in the past have seen in the of a reptilian beast winding half way around the sky. In the tradition we have inherited, the creature is Draco, the Dragon. He can be seen well up over the north-eastern horizon in late evening, rising higher as night progresses. Follow the Dragon's body from near the Plough, around the Little Bear, to where his

head lies above Vega, marked by the brightest star in the constellation, second-magnistar patterns around the tude Eltanin. But bear in celestial north pole the coils mind this is not overall a very prominent constellation. However, skies darken this week as the Moon wanes. Comet Hale-Bopp is now on the decline as well. Casual naked-eye observers will not find it easily as we get into May so it is time to take a farewell look.

Jacqueline Mitton

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TODAY'S TELEVISION



Tina Ogle recommends Halifax FP Sat 9pm C5
The Enormous Election with Dennis Pennis Sat 10.45pm BBC2

Switching on to Hamish Macbeth (Sun BBC1) this preelection weekend, one could be forgiven for assuming it
was a Party Election Broadcast on behalf of the Scottish
Which, by the way, just happened to be held and the scottish wings. Nationalists. Save for the fact that Alex Salmond does not appear covered in blue paint, à la Mel Gibson in Braveheart, it has all the essential ingredients. "Viva Scotia," breathes one character, followed closely by the lament "Only when Scotland becomes a nation again...". What has hitherto been a bizarre but lovable cop series set in the remote Scottish Highlands, comes to an end with a two-parter which plunges us into the realms of plain silliness. Billed by the BBC as "dark", this particular plot kicks off with the long-lost, one-eyed, one-legged, one-armed brother of saintly character TV John being sprung from a South American jail with the aid of a hypnotist. The said entrancer is

of the plot is too preposterous to describe, and you'll have to wait till next Sunday to see if the plucky clan win their battle for "the very soul of Scotland".

Not wrestling for the ethos of Australia, but proving very incisive is Halifax FP (Sat CS), the latest addition to eponymous super sleuths. Rebecca Gibney, a sort of Antipodean Sharon Stone, plays the criminal psychiatrist in this series of feature-length dramas, which see her merrily mixed up in murders. This week, she assesses whether a convicted killer should go free, solves two murders at the local private school, and becomes romantically entangled with a rough-diamond cop. Not bad going, but then a glamorous woman of a certain age, complete with comedy she does seem to have nicked Inspector Morse's Jag.

contestants in the first of a new series of Masterchef (Sun BBC1). Not only do they have to whip up a sumptuous three-course meal in two and a half hours, they also have to put up with time-wasting questions from Loyd Grossman and his two judges. Joined this week by chef Rick Stein and hotelier Anouska Hempel, Grossman prowls around a brand new set consisting of enormous condiment containers. Now, if the waiter in your local Italian produced one of these pepper grinders, you would have something to worry about. Instead, the contestants fret about their mole sauces and obvious spots, as their hugely enlarged faces watch the flirty trio descend on their anxiously prepared offerings. If you like a dash of Schadenfreude with your afternoon tea, this is surely for you.

And so to the man who has made a career out of delighting

Struggling with more mundane problems are the three ontestants in the first of a new series of Masterchef (Sun BBC1).

Dennis Pennis. This creation of Paul Kaye hosts a brave attempt that only do they have to the part of t to bring election issues to the young. The Enormous Election with Dennis Pennis (Sat BBC2) presents policies in a pop-culture style, studded with clever jokes and celebrity comment. Youth icons interview the party leaders, and it's worth watching for

Ulrika Jonsson's toe-curling encounter with John Major abuse.

Finally, prepare yourself for a long Thursday night of political partying with Swing Time (Sun BBC2). This gives an entertaining account of election broadcasts since 1935. Charting the massing should be be a property of the pressure should be pressure that BBC and TEM the film of the pressure should be pressure that BBC and TEM the film of the pressure should be pressure that BBC and TEM the film of the pressure should be pressure that BBC and TEM the film of the pressure should be pressure that BBC and TEM the film of the pressure should be pressure that BBC and TEM the film of the pressure should be pressure that BBC and TEM the film of the pressure that BBC and TEM the film of the pressure that BBC and TEM the film of the pressure that BBC and the film of the film of the pressure that BBC and the film of the fi the massive rivalry between the BBC and ITN, the film clicits endearing confessions of jealousy from the normally po-faced pundits. And comfort yourself with the thought that, wherever wins next week, we'll never again be subjected to election graphics generated by a knitting-pattern machine.

BBC 1

7.00 Harry and the Hendersons (R)(S)(T) (8218249). 7.25 News, Weather (6350152). 7.30 Felix the Cat (R)(S) (2147355). 7.45 Babar (R)(S) (4734930). 8.10 Albert the 5th Musketeer (R)(S) (3639404). 8.35 The Flintstones (R)(S) (9466607). 9.00 Phantom 2040 (R)(S)(T) (3094152). 9.25 The (17,6)(1) (3094152). 9.25 The Incredible Hulk (S) (3080959). 9.50 Grange Hill (R)(S)(T) (7664220). 10.15 Sweet Valley High (S) (1930065). 10.40 The 0 Zone (S) (5881930).

11.00 Enchanted Tales (R)(S) (7803572). 11.50 The Pink Panther Show (S) (6007201).

12.12 Weather (4810591). 12.15 Grandstand: 12.20 Football Focus (6746591). 1.00 News (7) (22075959). 1.05 World Championship Snooker (6773268). 2.00 Motor Sport: Rounds three and four of the 1997 Auto Trader RAC Touring Car Championships from Silverstone (79130). 3.00 Curling. The Curling World Championship from Berne, Switzerland (1305). 3,30 British Olympic Magazine (6665591). 3.45 Football Half-Times (9231065). 3.55 World

Championship Snooker (8349274). 4.40 Final Score (9327220). 5.15 News, Weather (T) (5618171). 5.25 Local News, Weather (8448626). 5.30 Party Election Broadcast (S)

(289591). 5.35 Cartoon (344341). 5.45 Dad's Army (R)(S)(T) (952978). 6.15 The New Adventures of Superman

(S)(T) (552220). 7.00 Whatever You Want. Three British lifeguards who dream of Baywatch are aided by Gaby Roslin (S)(T) (315046)

7.50 The National Lottery Live. Four Coronation Street babes join Bob Monkhouse (\$)(1) (825862). 8.10 Film Addams Family Values (Barry Sonnenfeld 1993 US). A rare example of the sequel improving on the original, this is monstrous fun, with Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia

(S)(T) (6705317). 9.35 Birds of a Feather. Sharon has a dream (R)(S)(T) (433084). 10.25 News, Weather (T) (642607). 10.55 They Think It's All Over. Cult sports

quiz (S)(T) (710794). 11.25 Top of the Pops (S)(T) (440442). 11.55 EUM Leaving Normal (Edward Zwick 1992 US). Charming buddy road movie, with Christine Lahti and Meg Tilly as two mismatched friends headed for Alaska (S)(T) (332152).

1.45 Weather. (5887911). To 1.50am. 1.50 PEB1.55 Weather, Scot: 4.40 Afternoon Sportscene 5.25 Reporting Scotland, Wales: 1.05 Rugby Union 1.10 Motor Sport 2.10 World Championship Snooker 2.20 Rugby Union SWALEC Cup Final 4.55 Wales on Saturday 5.35 Wales on Saturday 6.05 Cartoon

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Duccio: The Rucellai Madonna (7) (2879713). 6.45 Steel, Stars and Spectra (7173130). 7.10 Women, Children and Work (7) (1564152). 8.00 Open Saturday (507355).

10.30 World Championship Snooker (S) (80264336)

12.15 Film 97 with Barry Norman (S)(T) 12.45 The Lady Vanishes (Alfred Hitchcock 1938 UK). When an old dear

disappears on a train from Switzerland to England, Margaret Lockwood and Michael Redgrave investigate. A classic mystery tale (T) (47110084).

2.20 SPAR Rear Window (Alfred Hitchcock 1954 US). James Stewart is the photographer who turns voyeur when

emporarily confined to a wheelchair, believing he has witnessed a murder by a neighbour. Grace Kelly is his girtfriend (1) (557317). 4.10 Writing for Hitchcock. Ernest Lehman

describes the pleasures and pitfalls of writing one of Hitchcock's most celebrated films, North by Northwest (S) (5702046). 4.25 The Saint. Debonair Robin Hood-type

crock Simon Templar plunges into the world of racketeering gangsters, intrigue and vicious revenge plots (3534539).

5.15 World Championship Snooker.
David Vine introduces further coverage from the Crucible, Sheffield (S)

(21367510).
7.05 Newsnight. A battle of the opposites when radical director Ken Loach looks at the impact of casual and part-time employment, and debates with former Sun editor Kelvin MacKenzie (735779). 8.05 Party Election Broadcast (S) (316959). 8.10 Call of the Sea. The final part in the

excellent documentary series examine the impact of World War II on the million men who fought on the seas. Amazing to find out that, once a ship had been sunk, the wages of its crew automatically ceased (1) (737930). 8.50 Till Death Us Do Part. Warren Mitchell

is loud-mouthed East End bigot Alf Garnett, torturing his long-suffering family (R)(S) (405317). 9.20 Have I Got News for You. A repeat of last night's satirical news quiz which helped out poor old sacked Will Self by bunging him an appearance fee. Hugh Dennis is the other guest joining team captains Paul Merton and Ian Histop, the MC is Angus Deayton (S)(T)

9.50 World Championship Snooker. Further coverage of the 1997 Embassy World Snooker Championship (S) (436171). 10.45 The Enormous Election with Dennis Pennis. See Preview, above (S)(T)

(5406959). 12.00 Close Up (S) (5853008). 12.10 Rope (Alfred Hitchcock 1948 US). Typically terrifying tale of two boys who kill their college room-mate and then invite his family and friends round for dinner, James Stewart is the college professor whose Nietzchean teachings have inspired the killing. Hitchcock at his most experimental and amoral (S)(T)

1.30 Later with Jools Holland. With Ash, the Fugees, Crowded House and Seventies sensation Patti Smith (R)(S) (7830824). To 2.45am.

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News. 6.10 Professor Bubble. 6.30 Barranas in Pyjarras. 6.50 Our House. 7.15 The Wuzzles. 7.45 Walse Up in the Wild Room. 8.55 wer Rangers Zeo (6150084). 9.25 Scratchy and Co. With guest Gary Barlow (S) (22581 125).

11.00 The Chart Show (S) (7636633). 11.45 F1: San Marino Grand Prix – Qualifying. Jim Rosenthal introduces live coverage of the qualifying session for the San Marino Grand Prix (S)

(318930). 1.15 ITN News, Weather (1) (22081510). 1.20 London Weetend Today (1) (35725978). 1.25 Stuntmasters (R) (2203978). 2.05 seaQuest DSV (S)(T) (1702355)

3.00 Agatha Christie's Murder in Three Acts (Gary Nelson 1986 US).
Peter Ustinov plays Poirot as he hits Acapulco in his usual seemly manner CD 274435591 T) (97442268). 4.45 ITN News, Sports Results, Weather (7) 5.05 London Weekend Tonight (5614355).

Channel 4

6.00 Terrytoons (4866713). 6.05 Sesame Street (R) (8793713). 7.05 The Adventures of Sonic the Hedgehog

9.00 Morning Line (S) (85336)

10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (53978). 11.00 NBA 24/7 (S) (66442).

gang of crooks led by Sidney James (T) (74766775).

(60049355). 5.05 Brookside (R)(S)(T) (8067404).

10.45pm BBC2 'The Enormous Election with Dennis Pennis'

5.15 F1: San Marino Grand Prix - Special. Latest news from Imola on the San Marino Grand Prix (S) (8437510).

5.45 New Baywatch. Toxic waste hits the musclebound beach (S)(T) (426171). 6.35 You've Been Framed! (R)(S)(T)

7.05 Barrymore (S)(T) (185210). 8.00 News, Weather, Lottery Result (T) (214161).

8.15 Stars in Their Eyes (S)(T) (754607). 9.00 Cracker – the Movie: Brotherly Love. A man is arrested to face Fitz's questioning after the death of a prostitute (R)(S)(T) (50056046). 11.45 (BBM) Hush Little Baby (Jorge Montesi

1993 US). Diane Ladd is a crazed mother reunited with her long-lost daughter in this moderately creepy psycho-thriller (S)(T) (697591). US). When a teenage boy goes missing, the authorities are reluctant to help.

Ellen Burstyn is in fine form in this true-life movie (147621). 3.10 Et News Review. Entertainment news 5.10 E: News Review. Entertainment new from Hollywood (4508485). 3.55 Club Nation (R)(S)(7) (2285350). 4.50 Cool Vibes (85712534). 5.05 Coach (S) (7012669). To 5.30am.

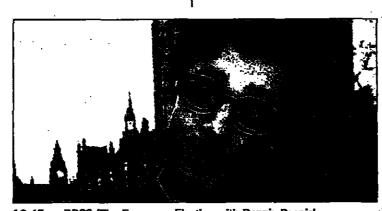
(R) (3587779).

7.35 Creepy Crawlers (R)(S)(T) (4761084). 8.00 Transworld Sport (25539).

12.00 Rawhide (30626).
1.00 End The Big Job (Gerald Thomas
1965 UK). Marvellously named
comedy from the Carry On team about a

2.35 Racing. Coverage from Sandown Park: 2.50 Brewers Fayre Novices H'cap. 3.30 Whitbread Gold Cup. 4.10. Thresher Classic Trial. 4.45 David Lloyd Leisure Gordon Richards Stakes (S)

6.30 Right to Reply (\$)(7) (539). 7.00 A Week in Politics (\$) (3539).



The red menace returns, with special guests, to explore the election issues

8.00 Run Silent, Run Deep (Robert Wise 1958 US). Clark Gable and Burt Lancaster at loggerheads on a World Clueless. Glossy Beverley Hills teen sitcom (S)(T) (9039369). War II submarine in this tense and

excellent essay in revenge (T) (57910775). 9.45 Bremner, Bird and Fortune: Three Men and a Vote, Rory Bremner, John Fortune and John Bird gloriously combine forces

to take a satirical sideswipe at the election campaign (S) (781133). 10.35 Homicide: Life on the Street. More finely-paced drama from the Baltimore squad room. Tonight, Kellerman's anger escalates (S)(T) (371065).

11.35 Hill Street Blues (R)(T) (590423). 12.30 Eller Letter to Brezhnev (Chris Bernard 1985 UK). A cracking script by Frank Clarke powers this tale of two Liverpudlians who fall for Russian

2.15 Baadasss TV (R)(S) (88331). 2.45 Rock of the North (S) (952176). 3.45 The Real World (S) (25192282). 4.10 One for the Road (R)(S)(T) (3069402).

4.40 Let the Blood Run Free (R)(S)(T) (61927669). 5.10 Mon Desir. A bored housewife seeks relief (7090447). To 5.40am.

Channel 5

6.00 Dappledown Farm (5010065). 6.30 Attractions (R)(S) (6346510). 7.00 S News Early (S) (2423355). 7.30 Havakazoo: Wirnzie's House (2402862).

8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (2020591). 8.30 Land of the Lost. Tom becomes obsessed with finding the elusive jungle gri (2029862).

9.00 Severly Hills, 90210 (7) (16949201). 10.50 Mag Upfront: Anything's Possible. Young actors re-enact childhood traumas and early memories of Jayne Torville (S) (85524572). 11.00 Turnstyle. Gall McKenna and Dominick

Diamond report on the weekend's top sporting clashes. Wimbledon striker Dean Holdsworth reviews the weekend's action in the Nationwide League (S) (37586268) 12.50 5 News (S) (11573065).

1.00 The Mag. Presented and run by youngsters, for youngsters (S) (9919249). 2.00 USA High. Teenage drama series about the students of an American school in

Paris (S) (59668220). 2.20 The Mag (Continued) (S) (7426084). 3.15 Sunset Beach Omnibus. Sand, send, sand... (7) (13076152).

6.00 5 News and Sport. (S) (9279626). 6.05 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys. Hercules battles the power-hungry Pentheus, who has masterminded a plot to overthrow his own father, King iphicles (S) (3898065). 6.55 Night Fever. Suggs from Madness helps celebrities plumb new depths in this

cross-gender karaoke competition (S) (5251607). 7.50 5 News and Sport (S) (1052442). 8.10 JAG. The dashing navy lawyer investigates the crash of a Torncat

fighter plane in the desert (3161336).

9.00 Halifax FP. See Preview, above (S)(T) 10.55 (BIBM) The Hotel New Hampshire (Tony Richardson 1984 US). Sprawling, novelistic adaptation of John Irving's book by the author himself. Occasionally dull pacing is more than

compensated for by a fine cast including Rob Lowe, Jodie Foster and Beau Bridges (40552959).

12.55 [358] The Man Who Fell to Earth (Robert J Roth 1987). A remake of the original Bowie film, with Lewis Smith as the alien seeking a way back to his home planet. The only question is,

why? (6708992). 2.40 The Best Man (Franklin Schaffner 1964 US). Astute political thriller set in the seamy political world of Washington DC. Gore Vidal scripted from his own play, lending a sense of realism to the story of two men battling for their party's candidacy in the forthcoming the moral candidate, Cliff Robertson his scheming rival (9158466). 4.25 The Road. Country music showcase

(68612911). 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (6106669).

5.30 Whittle, Quiz show presented by Tim Vine. In which 100 contestants are reduced to one lucky winner (R)(S)(T) (5077350). To 6.00am.

ITV/Regions

ASELIA
As London except: 1.20pm Anglia News
and Weather (35724249). 1.30 Warner Biothers Cartoon (50850539). 1.40 Fem: The Hiners Cartoon (50850539). 3.45 seaGuest USV
deriburg (87915930). 3.45 seaGuest USV oenburg (8/913930), 3.49 seacurar 159 (105133), 5.05 Angia News, Sport and Weather (5614355), 1.25 Films Sunset Beat (147621), 3.10 Films The Hostage (8826911), 4.30 - 5.30am Shift (11008).

CENTRAL
As London except: 1.20pm Central News and
Weather (35725978). 1.25 World of Wonder
(20447189). 1.40 Premiere (69688797). 2.10
Film: Blood River (847442). 5.05 Central News
and Weather (8413930). 5.10 Central Match
Goals Extra (8445539). 3.55 Jobfinder (4678982)
5.20 - 5.30am Asian Eye (2918447).

AS London except: 1.20pm HTV Wales News and Weather (35725978). 1.25 Pilm: The Analong Captain Nemo (26523065). 3.15 Shintmasters (8021242). 3.50 Airwolf (6150997). 5.05 HTV Wales News and Sports Results (5614355). 1.25 Pilm: Sunset Beat (1476.1). 3.10 Pilm: The Hostage (8826911). 4.30 . 5.30em Shift (11008).

5.30am Shift (11008). HTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 1.20pm HTV West News and Weather (35725978). 1.25 Sportsweek (5434442). 2.00 Suntmasters (7177862). 2.50 A World of Wonder (4576539). 3.15 Airsolf (9337133). 4.10 The List (8597539). 5.05 5.15pm HTV West News, Sports Results and Weather (5614355).

As London except: 1.20pm Meridian News, and Weather (22079775). 1.30 The Road Show (12220), 2.00 A405 (3688). 2.30 Curroon

(4565423). 2.50 Hollywood's Greatest Starts (4710591). 3.45 seaGuest DSV (105133) Sums (4/1031). 3.43 seathers to 103(133) 5.05 Meridian News and Weather (5614355). 1.25 Film: Sunset Beat (147621). 3.10 Film: The Hostage (8826911). 4.30 - 5.30am Shift (11008).

News (22079775), 1.30 Planet Rock Profiles (12220), 2.00 Sturtmasters (7177863), 2.50 Airwolf (8537355), 5.05 Westcountry News (5614355), 1.25 Film: Sunset Beat (147621), 3.10 Film: The Hostage (8826911), 4.30 - 5.30cm Shift (11008).

Resident (1997) 1.25 Film: The Man trom learning (1997) 1.25 Film: The Big Money (6607171). 5.05 Colendar News and Weather (8413930). 5.10 Scoreline (8445539). 1.25 In Bed with Medinaer (7231447). 1.55 Film: The Man trom learning (4101145). 3.46 Film: The Man trom learning (4101145). 3 ner (231447). 1.55 Fate: The Mish Table Laramie (410114). 3.40 Funny Business (2518592). 4.10 Collins and Maconie's Mowe Club (30596485). 4.40 - 5.30am Murder, Sho Wrote (9632466).

CHANNEL 2 NORTH EAST As Yorkshire except: 1.20pm North East News (35725978). 5.05 North East News (8413930) 5.10 - 5.15pm Full Time (8445539)

As C4 except: 10.00am Hangin' with Air Cooper (30539), 10.30 The Monkess (83387), 12.00 Film: The Left Hand of God (573751), 1.35 Survivors of the Rainforest (2836862), 2.30 Rygbi – Cwpan SWALEC (66392713), 4.40 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park (7929862), 6.30 Racing from Sandown Park (192986.2), 6,30 Springhill (539), 7.00 Newyddion a Chwarseon (951626), 7.15 Llwytan (959881), 7.45 Cerdd a Chan (958152), 8,15 Hel Straeon (214220) 8,45 Pengelli (213591), 9,15 Ethohad 97 (963442), 9,30 The Two Johns Electon Specials (854355), 10,35 The Surgery (371065), 11,35 - 12,30am Horwicide: Life on the Street (590,223),

Radio

Radio 1

676-998 MHz RM 6.00am Dave Pearce 9.30 Nicky Campbell 12.30 Claire Sturgess 3.30 Trevor Netson 6.30 Danny Rampling - Lovegroove Dance Party 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 Radio J Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix: Southport Dance Weekender 4.00-6.00am Annie Nightingale

Radio 2 (38-90.2M); FB)

6.00am Mc Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright 1.00 Foreverett 1.30 The News Hud-Foreverett 1.30 The News Huddines 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Alam Freeman 5.30 Sutherland Brothers and Quiver in Concert 6.30 Groover: The EMI Music Archives 7.30 The Magic of Gilbert and Sulivan 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 Greater Loesser 11.00 Bob Harris 1.00 Charles Nove 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta

Radio 3 60.252 Was hin 6.55 Weather: News Headlines. 7.00 Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library. 10.15 Record Relea

12.00 Private Passions, With psychotherapist Adam Phillips. See Chorce, above. 1.00 News; Vintage Years, In the last of four programmes, Dame Janet Baker talks to Brian Kay about her experiences on the opera stage. (R) 3.00 BBC Festival of Brass. In the

second of six concerts, the Grimethorpe Colliery Band play the first masterwork for brass band - Holst's A Moorside Suite from 1928 - and Blitz by Derek Bourgeois from 1980.
4.00 London International String Quartet Competition.

5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 5.45 Music Matters. 6.30 Live from the Met: Fedora. July Live from the Met. Fedora. Umberto Giordano's opera læs never been broedcast from the Met before, and hasn't been staged there for more than 70 years. Mirelfa Freni, soprano (Fedora), Placido Domingo, tenor (Loris), Dwayne Croft, tenor (de Siried), Airoa Artiela, soprano (Olza). James Courtons.

soprano (Olga), James Courtney, bass (Dr Borov), Chorus and Or-

chestra of the Metropolitan Opera/Roberto Abbado, Act 1. 7.00 Who Was Umberto Giordano? (R) 7.20 Fedora, Act 2. 8.05 The Met Opera Quiz.

1.

Choice



Cabbages and Kings (4pm R4) examines history's quirks and quiddities, beginning with dog-slaughtering as a protection against plague (not so quirky from the dog's viewpoint). The thinking man's Desert Island Discs, Private Passions (12noon R3), features the thinking man's fortune cookie, psychotherapist and aphorist Adam Phillips.

8.30 Fedora, Act 3.
9.15 Between the Ears. Six experimental radiophonic programmes. Tonight's outing is a voyage through the history of the BBC voice and its close cousin, received pronunciation. Produced in collaboration with Tom Monts. director of Bethersee Tom Morris, director of Battersea

Arts Centre. 10.00 Intersections. Mark Russell Introduces a recital by harpsi-chordist Jane Chapman. Louis Couperin: Prelude a l'Imitation de M Froberger. Simon Emmer-son: Points of Departure. Michelangelo Rossi: Toccata settima. Mike Vaughan: Tiento. Domenico Scartatti: Sonata in A minor. Maurice Ohana: Conga. 10.45 Impressions. Brian Morton and Alyn Shipton Introduce a

session by the young British pianist and composer Roy Powell, with Mike Walker (guitar), John Marshall (drums) and the Nor wegian bass player Arild Ander-Berne talks to Alyn Shipton about his various bands, partic ularly Blood Count, which is soon to begin a Contemporary Music Network Tour.

1.00-7.00am Through the Night. Radio 4 02.494 Blitz FM, 1986/z LWA 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today.
6.50 Prayer for the Day.
6.55 Weather.
7.00 Today.
8.58 Weather.
9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4.
9.30 Breakaway.
10.00 News; Loose Ends.
11.00 News; Election Agenda.
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

dent. 12.00 Money Box. 12.25 The News Quiz.

12.55 Weather.

1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical discussion in Roade, Northamp-tonshire, with Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke, Harriet Harmon, shadow Secretary of State for Social Security. Lib eral Democrat peer Lord Jenk-ins of Hillhead; and Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish

National Party.

1.55 Shipping Forecast.

2.00 News, Any Answers?

2.30 Saturday Playhouse: The Wind Pump. By Dawn Lowe-Watson, starring James Lauren-son and Charlotte Attenborough A young TV producer goes to in-terview an ex-prisoner of war. Despite the difference in their ages, she finds herself falling in love with him. (R)

3.45 How to Survive in Further Education (R)

ucation. (R) 4.00 Cabbages and Kings. See Choice, above. 4.30 Science Now. 5.00 PM. 5.40 You Probably Think This Song is about You. 5.50 Shipping Forecast.

5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending. 6.50 Offspring. 7.20 Kalendoscope Feature. Since the early Eightiss, the northern French city of Lille has em-braced the European vision of the future. Laurence Philips wonders what we can learn from Lillers dynamic example.
7.50 On These Days.
8.50 Saturday Night Theatre. The
Casebook of Sherlock Holmes.

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, With Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, (R) 9.35 Classics with Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten. 10.00 News. 10.15 Late Night Theatre: Surier's

Duarte, When Jeanie discovers that her estranged sister has died, she sets out to unravel the cied, she say but to unrave the tangled threads of her life, drawing her into a dangerous web of blackmall, intrigue and murder. With Katy Murphy. (R) 11.15 Irish Icons. (R) 11.30 Stanza on Stage. Simon Ar-mitage introduces a poem for ra-dio, The Red Field, by Graham

Mort. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Story: The Gun Hanging on the Wall. By Tom

Hanging on the virus. Ly vol...
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.50 Inshore Forecast.
5.51 Bells on Sunday,
5.55-6.00am Shipping Forecast. Radio 4 LW

192.4-94.699b; FML 1984b; 198 No Variations Radio 5

(83, 9)9/b (M)
6.00am Dirty Tacide 6.30 The
Breakfast Programme 9.00 Weekend 11.00 Top Gear 11.30 Hold
the Front Page 12.00 Richard Littiejohn 1.00 Sport on Five 6.06
Stx-0-Six 8.05 The Treatment 9.00 Brief Lives 9.30 Asian Perspective 10.00 Richard Dailyn's Election Night 11.00 News Extra 12.00 Af-ter Hours 2.00 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports

Classic FM (100-101-14th Att) 6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Count-down 12.00 Masters of Their Art 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Jane Markham 6.00 Gardening Forum 7.00 Opera Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 The Classic Quiz 12.00 Sally Peterson 2.00 Evening Concert 4,00-6.00am Sally Peterson

Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260 bit WW 105.8Witz PM) 6.00am Lynn Parsons 10.00 Russ 'n' Jono's Greatest Hits 12.00 Jeremy Clark 3.00 The Album Chart with Robin Banks 6.00 Robin Banks 10.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

World Service (1986/z LW) 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter from America 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 On Your Behalf 3.00 World News 4.05 World Business Re view 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 From Our Own Correspondent 5.00 News-desk 5.30-6.00am Globel Business

Satellite/cable

7.00am Orson and Olivia (96369). 7.30 Delfy and His Friends (80046). 8.00 Press Your Luck (43626). 8.30 Love Connection (42997). 9.00 Love Connection (42997), 9,00 Quantum Leap (23510), 10,00 Kung Fu - The Legend Continues (79930). 11,00 Legends of the Hidden City (66591), 11,30 Sea Rescue (57220), 12,00 Wrestling (52862). 1,00 Wrestling (61510), 2,00 Star Trek (57220), 3,00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (78336), 4,00 Star Trek: Generation (78336), 4,00 Star Trek: Deep Stare Niho. (801771) Next Generation (78336), 4.00 Star Trak: Deep Space Nine (80171). 5.00 Star Trak: Voyager (2591), 6.00 Kung Fu – The Legend Continues (58046): 7.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (91775), 8.00 Coppers (9268), 8.30 Cops 1 (8775). 9.00 Cops II (86355), 9.30 The Service (15801) 10.00 Legendary (15801) ial Killers (53591). 10.00 Law and Order (90046). 11.00 LA Law

Smouldering Lust (98350). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix (9333224). 7.00pm Superboy (4114065). 7.30 Superboy (3867862). 8.00 Metrose Place (1246978). 9.00 Pacific Drive (1259442). 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (8177591). 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (8193539), 11.00 Duckman (8740171), 11.30 Duckman (7612607). 12.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (8802176).

(87959). 12.00 The Movie Show (49824). 12.30 LAPD (83337). 1.00 Dream On (59973). 1.30

MONTE CHANNEL. 6.00am Ivanhoe (91423). 7.00 The Flying Sorcerer (55794). 8.00 Cloak and Dagger (79442). 10.00 Another Midnight Run (75713). 12.00 Major League II (69065), 2,00 Mr North (12268), 4.00 Andre (5065), 6.00 Major League II (92404), 8.00 Radiant City (12309), 10.00 Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (56222959). 12.05 The Programme (260669). 2.00 Prototype (975621). 3.40-6.00am Keys (50735058).

SKY MOVIES 6.00em The Hudsucker Proxy (54626). 8.00 Cavernan (48572). 10.00 Oh, Heavenly Dog (77171). 12.00 Wagons East! (61423). 2.00 The Hudsucker Proxy (14626). 4.00 The Giant of Thunder Mountain (80317). 5.30 Spensen A Savage Place (17930). 7.00 Wagons East (96341). 9.00 To Die For (51238). 11.00 Dream Master: The Erotic invader (28713). 12.30 Murdered Innocence (5391282). 1.55 Back to School (927089), 3,30-6,00am Gimme an 'F' (874737),

SKY MOVIES GOLD 6.00pm The Buddy System . (8043046), 8.00 Big (8048591). 10.00 The 'Burbs (4039133). 11.45 fron Eagle (9196065). 1.45 Breakout (7542089). 3.25-5.30am Reap the

Wild Wind (39341331). SEY SPORTS 1 Sey SPORTS 1
7.00am World Sports (36249), 7.30
Aerobics (48084), 8.00 The Rugby
Club (53442), 8.30 Racing (52713),
9.00 Super League (64238), 11.00
Hold the Back Page (24404), 12.00
Sports Saturday (14715), 2.00
Rugby Union – Live (25536065),
4.15 Sports Saturday Results
(3925607), 5.30 World League
American Footbell (1655794), 9.00
Rinosine (41794), 11.00 Rugby Ringside (41794). 11.00 Rugby Union (55012). 1.00 Australian Rules Football (47640). 3.00-5.00am Ringside (59621).

SET SP0815 2 7.00am Soccer AM (4464978). 11.00 End Zone (6202268). 12.00 Inside the PGA Your (6120404). 12.30 Golf: Spanish Open (9413978). 3.30 Golf: Greater Greensboro Classic (2562881), 5.30 Squash (8985046), 6.30 Survival of the Fittest (3825268). 7.00 Aug. an Rules Football (6294249). 9.00 Golf: Greater Greensboro Clas (4556220). 11.00-1.00am Golf: Spanish Open (3988423).

12.00noon Motorsport (58917775).

SXY SPORTS 3

2.30 Cricket: West Indies v India (74576997). 10.30 Survival of the Fithest (93063930). 11.00-12_00midnight Squash (50369930). 6.00am Pin Money 6.30 The Fashion Show 7.00 Sports Live 7.30 A Game of Two Scarves 8.00 The Sharm Rock Cuiz 8.30 Looling for Love 8.45 Pet Squad 9.00 Revelations 9.30 The Fashion Show 10.00 Agony 10.30 Looking for Love 10.45 Pet Squad 11.00 Trial TV 11.30 Fate and For-tune 12.00 The Why Files? 12.30

Agony 1.00 Agony 1.15 Agony 1.30 Trial TV 2.00 The Fashion Show 2.30 Agony 3,00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Pin Money 4.00 Looking for Love 4.30 The Sham Rock Quiz 5.00 Agony 5.30 The Why Files? 6.00 The Fashion Show 6.30 Sports Live 7.00 Pin Money 7.30 A Game of Two Scarves 8.00 Bushido 9.00 Handy Hunks; Sham Rock Quiz 9.30 Eva's Severties Pop Show 10,00 Topless Darts in Space; Sport Live 10,30 Stand-Up 11,00 Topless Darts in Space; Fate and Fortune 11,30 Sex Show 11.55 Erotica Evotica 12.30 Kas TV 1.30 Shopping 2.00 Sex Show 2.30 Erotica Evotica 3.00 Stand-Up 3.30 The Sex Show 4.00 Erotica Exotica 4.30 Pin Money 5.00 Sports Live 5.30-6.00am Shopping



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